southern VOICE

Summer sizzler
The heat won't stop Hotlanta from drawing thousands next week.
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Teens busting through tobacco marketing

New cessation effort tells young gays 'truth' about smoking

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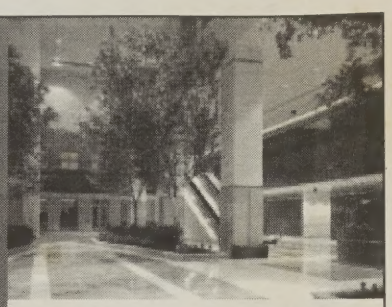
CUSTODY CASE: Paula Burgess wins custody in test of gay parental rights. **Page 3**

RAVE BEAT: Quick pace of rave bill in Congress slowed by opponents. **Page 12**



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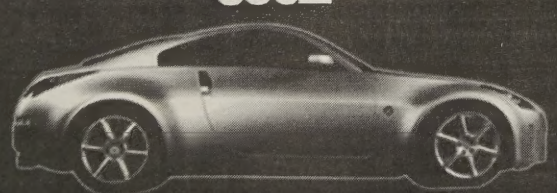


the rebirth of the Z

local news

Lesbian sues children's home over firing

Decatur facility, state agency face lawsuit challenging public funding of religious organizations

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

A psychologist who says she was fired from the United Methodist Children's Home in Decatur after her employers learned she is gay said Wednesday that she and six other plaintiffs are suing the state-funded religious organization for employment discrimination.

"I feel we're being given an opportunity to send a message that what happened to me was wrong, but also an opportunity to say to gay youth that this kind of thing shouldn't happen to them," said Aimee Bellmore, the lesbian plaintiff.

Susan Sommer, a supervising attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, filed the lawsuit in Fulton County Superior Court against the children's home and the state Department of Human Resources on behalf of Bellmore, Alan Yorker, a psychologist rejected for employment because he is Jewish, and five others.

Aimee Bellmore sued the United Methodist Children's Home in Decatur this week, alleging that the facility fired her last year when its director discovered she is gay. The agency has not responded to the lawsuit. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

The other plaintiffs included YouthPride founder Stephanie Swann, Rabbi Joshua Lesser of Congregation Bet Haverim, Thomas Morton, president of the Child Welfare Institute, Rev. Harry Pritchett of All Saints Episcopal Church, and PFLAG member Gloria Rutherford.

"A policy that condemns homosexuality sets a psychological tone of shame," Swann said. "And it's my taxpayer money that they are using to discriminate against gay youth."

Bellmore and Yorker are seeking back pay and an opportunity to work at UMCH, according to Sommer.

"But more importantly, we're seeking to discontinue the indoctrination of foster children with religious beliefs sustained by government funding," she said. "There is a disproportionate number of GLBT youth in the Georgia foster care system. They need to be supported, not made to feel ashamed."

The case centers on federal employment anti-discrimination law and separation of church and state, according to Sommer.

The agency, which houses children referred from the state Department of Family & Children Services, has a written policy not to "condone the practice of homosexuality."

Bellmore, hired as a unit coordinator at the home in April 2001, said she was fired Nov. 2 from her post by Jeff Amos, director of the United Methodist Children's Home, after a co-worker told administrators that she is gay.

No complaints about her job performance or any other issue were raised when she was fired, Bellmore said.

Repeated attempts to reach Amos for comment were unsuccessful. A spokesperson for the children's home and officials with the state DHR could also not be reached by press time.

The children's home is a related agency of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. But staff at the facility "follow an employment manual from the home office in Decatur," according to Dalton UMCH Director Mike Lashapella, who directed questions to the agency's Decatur office.

Lashapella did not know whether his office had any gay employees, but said "there has recently been a change of policy about gay employees," but declined to elaborate.

Other employees at the Dalton facility were unaware of any policy preventing gay employees from working at UMCH.

"I know you have to be affiliated with a church, because we're a church agency and work with youth," said the receptionist at the Dalton home, who declined to give her name. "But I'm unaware of any policy relating to gay employees, and I've worked here 16 years."

The children's home includes its written "position on family, marriage and human sexuality" on employment applications.

MORE INFO

United Methodist Children's Home
500 S. Columbia Drive
Decatur, GA 30030
404-327-5820
www.umch.com

Second-parent lesbian mom loses custody

Case called 'successful test' of gay parental rights

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

Bartow County Superior Court Judge Shepherd Howell issued a first-of-its-kind custody order July 26, ending an almost two-year struggle between two lesbian co-parents for their adopted 9-year-old daughter.

Gay rights activists are hailing the decision as a win for second-parent adoptions.

In the first known custody case in the state pitting two gay parents against each other, Howell awarded sole physical and legal custody to Paula Burgess, an emergency room physician.

"I know she's elated," said Joyce Colmar, Burgess' attorney. "Her whole fear was she would have to spend the rest of [the daughter's] life protecting [the daughter] from some of Louisa's inappropriate behavior."

Burgess filed suit in April 2001 against her former partner, Louisa Branscomb, seeking sole custody. Branscomb, a non-practicing psychologist and Grammy-award winning bluegrass musician, countered eight days later, also seeking sole custody.

Both Branscomb and Burgess declined comment.

Branscomb's attorney, Faye McCord, did not return calls by press time.

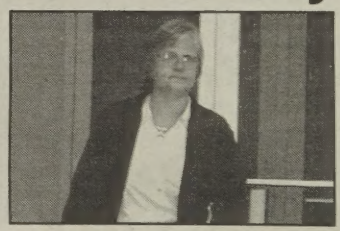
Burgess testified at trial July 18 and 19 that Branscomb has Multiple Personality Disorder, been suicidal on numerous occasions and flown into "rages."

Howell's decision indicates that he may have been influenced by that testimony.

"Considering the plaintiff's emotional and economic stability... contrasted with the defendant's periods of significant dysfunction, the court finds that it is in the best interest of the child that the plaintiff be awarded sole legal and physical custody of the minor child," Howell wrote in his five-page order.

Branscomb, who was ordered to pay $600 per month in child support, was granted "standard visitation," with visits every other weekend, three weeks in the summer and alternate major holidays, according to the order.

"It's not about Paula not wanting to share [the daughter], because I know Paula well enough to know if [Branscomb] had a half-way normal person in her life she would be happy to share her," Colmar said.



Paula Burgess, who sued her former partner in a landmark custody case in Georgia, received sole custody of the couple's adopted daughter this week. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Burgess adopted the then-newborn girl in Bartow County on May 29, 1993, according to her testimony. Branscomb adopted the girl June 11, 1998, after the family moved to Port Townsend, Wash., to facili-

Please see ADOPTION on Page 4

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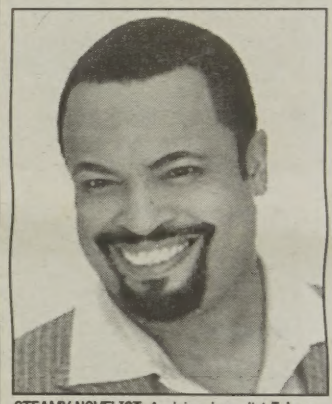
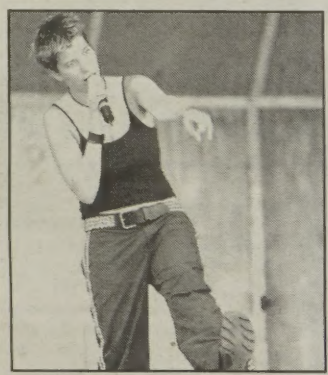
DARK HORSE?: Vermont Gov. **Howard Dean** talked civil unions with about 150 gay Atlantans last week. The retiring governor is testing the waters for a long-shot presidential bid. Page 7



STEAMY NOVELIST: Acclaimed novelist **E. Lynn Harris** promotes his latest work, a sultry summer romance, during an upcoming stop in Atlanta. Page 37



DYKE FEST: **Alex Olsin** joins Bitch & Animal, the Butchies and Elvira Kurt, among 40 other musical acts, to provide music at the Michigan's Womyn's Festival this month. The event blends music, nudity, and woman empowerment. Page 39

local news

Chambliss throws first anti-gay pitch of season

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

The undercurrent in the race for Georgia's contested Senate seat, which has already garnered national attention, took a subtle anti-gay turn last month.

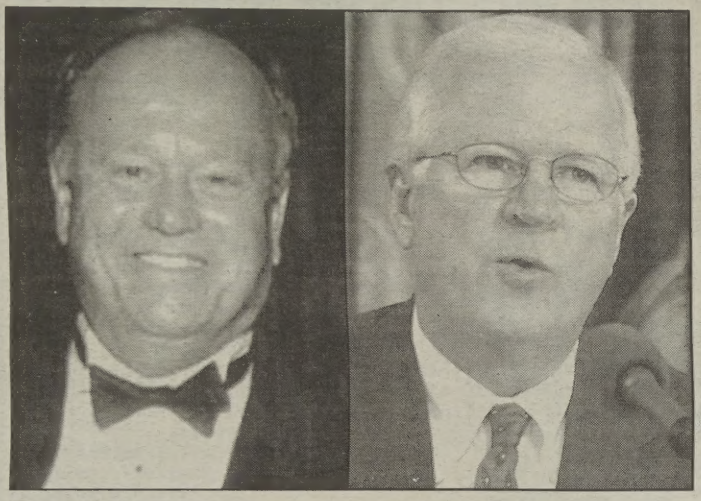
U.S. Rep. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), a conservative with an anti-gay voting history targeting Democrat Sen. Max Cleland, called the first-term senator to task for votes involving the Boy Scouts and needle exchanges in a document distributed last month.

"Cleland voted to use taxpayer dollars to give free needles to drug addicts," according to a press release from Chambliss' campaign office. "Cleland voted to ban the Boy Scouts from meeting in public schools."

The underlying message is clear, said Winnie Stachelberg, political director for the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign, a national gay lobby group.

"Chambliss is running anti-gay messages in a race where he thinks that is going to work," Stachelberg said. "I think he's wrong — the same reason Americans don't like this kind of campaigning is the same reason they don't like the Boy Scout's discriminatory policy."

"Chambliss is playing politics with people's lives when he criticizes votes that will help decrease the spread of HIV," Stachelberg said.



Sen. **Max Cleland** (D-Ga.) (left) was targeted by U.S. Rep. **Saxby Chambliss** (R-Moultrie) in a campaign flyer this month for what could be this year's round of anti-gay politics. (Cleland photo by Leonard Hughes; Chambliss by Richard Drew/AP)

Cleland's staff called the press release "inaccurate."

"The votes are not at all similar to how the Chambliss campaign is characterizing them," said Jamal Simmons, Cleland's communications director.

"He never voted against the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts vote was about keeping local control over schools and not allowing the federal government to withdraw funds if they don't agree with a local decision," Simmons added.

Cleland's vote in favor of a needle exchange program was part of a funding package for the District of Columbia, Simmons said.

Chambliss staff members said the press release was not anti-gay.

"No, it's not intended to be anti-gay," said Lisa Gimbel, communications director for Chambliss. "It's about upholding the American institution of Boy Scouts. Max's vote would have prohibited Boy Scouts from meeting on school property."

Gimbel would not answer questions about Chambliss' voting record on gay issues, or whether he would meet with any gay groups while campaigning.

Political pundits said neither candidate should take the gay vote, concentrated in Atlanta, for granted.

"Neither of the candidates should risk alienating the gay vote because it's the potential swing vote in this race," said Desiree Pediscleaux, a professor of political science at Spelman College.

"While most of Georgia is rural, and that's apparently what Chambliss is counting on, the gay vote in Atlanta could make or break this race," she said.

Cleland, though he rarely addresses gay issues by name in public appearances, has been supportive on a variety of gay measures and often attends gay events. HRC gave him a 100 percent rating on gay and AIDS related legislation.

Chambliss received a zero from the group.

Chambliss voted in favor of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as strictly between a man and a woman, and voted to ban adoptions by gays in the District of Columbia in 1999. He is opposed to the Employment Non Discrimination Act, which would provide workplace protection against anti-gay job bias.

Cleland supports the expansion of hate crime legislation to include sexual orientation, voted against federal legislation protecting the Boy Scouts of America, and co-sponsored a bill to ban employment bias based on sexual orientation.

Jennifer J. Smith can be reached at jsmith@sovo.com.

CAMPAIGN '02
SPOTLIGHT: U.S. SENATE

MORE INFO

Max Cleland for Senate
PO Box 7809
Atlanta, GA 30357-0809
404-815-7990
www.maxcleland2002.com

Chambliss for Senate
P.O. Box 12469
Atlanta, GA 30355
404-949-9688
www.saxby.org

Human Rights Campaign
919 18th St., N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006
202-628-4160
www.hrc.org

Lesbian mom loses custody

ADOPTION, continued from **Page 3**

tate a second-parent adoption.

Despite the second-parent adoption, Howell decided against joint custody.

"The parties have become very bitter, and it doesn't appear to the court that either is capable of peaceful, cooperative communication," Howell wrote.

Gay activists called the case a successful test of gay parental rights.

"This means second parent adoption is working because sexual orientation didn't factor into this decision," said Lisa Bennett, deputy director of the FamilyNet project for the Human Rights Campaign. "There are these kinds of custody disputes that go on every day between formerly legally married heterosexual couples, and the judge's job is to decide who is the better parent.

The case is unusual because both parents have a recognized legal relationship with the child. In many gay families, one partner adopts or gives birth to the child, while the other acts as a co-parent but has no official legal standing.

Under a relatively new legal option called second parent adoption — granted by only a handful of judges in Georgia and available in only a few states around the country — both Burgess and Branscomb were able to adopt the child.

MATT REEG CONTRIBUTED

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404-876-2709 (fax)
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KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents in patients 6 months of age or older. KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.

Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

KALETRA must not be taken with certain drugs due to the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects. Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription and herbal preparations, you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which may cause death, have been reported in patients receiving KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. Your doctor may want to monitor your liver function. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity are: abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. Children most often reported diarrhea, rash, taste aversion, and vomiting.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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KALETRA™
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA™
(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?
KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halcion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Orap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Rythmol® (propafenone)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
  - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines *Mevacor®* (lovastatin) or *Zocor®* (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
  Phenobarbital
  Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
  Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
  These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- **Other Special Considerations:**
  KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.
- **If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:**
  Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is **not** complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breast-feeding:* Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- *If you have liver problems:* If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- *If you have diabetes:* Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- *If you have hemophilia:* Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

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local news

Dean brings dark horse presidential bid to Ga.

Vt. governor who signed civil unions law receives warm welcome during Atlanta stop

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

In the two years since Vermont Gov. Howard Dean signed the nation's first civil unions legislation, he's become a folk hero of sorts among gays across the country.

But during a stop in Atlanta last week, Dean also showed he can wonk policy with the more well-known — and better funded — of presidential hopefuls among Democrats by focusing on his track record of improving health care and balancing budgets in Vermont.

"I'm a fiscally conservative, socially liberal Democrat," Dean said during a private reception July 26. "I'm not your old-fashioned, 1960s liberal."

Dean touted his balancing of 11 state budgets and shepherding a healthcare system that provides free and reduced-cost service to many state residents while he also fielded questions about the landmark civil unions legislation from a mostly gay crowd of about 150 interested spectators.

"I believe every American should have equal protection under the law, but gays are prohibited from approximately 350 benefits that I receive because I'm married," Dean told the crowd during an hour-long session. "I worked to change that in Vermont, and I think it should be changed elsewhere."

Dean sprinkled his answers with barbs at the current Democratic front-runner, Al Gore.

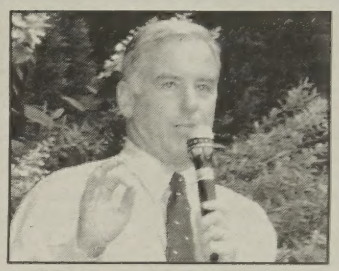
"I think if someone has the courage to join the armed services and risk their life in places like Afghanistan, they should be able to be open and honest about who they are," Dean said. "And that's not the answer another democratic candidate — the one from the state that borders Georgia — gave to the same question at a gay event in Los Angeles last week."

Dean's quiet ramping up to a presidential bid in 2004 has drawn early interest from some gay political strategists.

"Gov. Dean is very impressive and I hope he'll be able to go very long and hard in the race," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of Human Rights Campaign, a Washington, D.C.-based gay lobbying organization. "And I think the civil union issue will help him tremendously."

But while favored among some gays for his track record, political pundits are more cautious.

"It gives him an interesting starting place in the primary in places like Atlanta," James Carville, former political advisor to President Clinton and now a host of CNN's "Crossfire," said about Dean's campaign. "But I think it might be a problem if he got to the general election."



Vermont Gov. **Howard Dean** fielded questions about passage of that state's landmark civil unions legislation during a reception in Atlanta last week. (Photo by: R.O. Youngblood)

Money is the real problem, Carville said.

Dean's fundraising arm — the Fund for a Healthy America — is dead last among organizations for presidential hopefuls, raising less than $200,000 to date. That puts him far behind the likes of Gore, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, and Sens. John Kerry, Joseph Lieberman and John Edwards, all of who have expressed interest in the 2004 race and are raising money.

"He's a serious guy, interesting, thoughtful, has a non-traditional occupation for a politician," Carville said. "But the first question out of people's mouths is, 'How is he going to raise any money?' It's kind of like, 'Other than that Mrs. Lincoln, how did you like the play?'"

Dean has received publicity for his call to roll back President Bush's $1.3 trillion tax cut, suggesting the money be used to pay for universal health-care, the strongest anti-tax cut statement by a presidential candidate to date.

Dean is running as "the health-care candidate," he said, and he's been working the issue for over a decade.

A physician, Dean in the early 1990s was elected chair of the National Governor's Association health committee, then co-chair of its Task Force on Health Care. He also served as chair of the Democratic Governor's Association and focused on health care.

MORE INFO

Vermont Gov. Howard Dean
Fund for a Healthy America
P.O. Box 213
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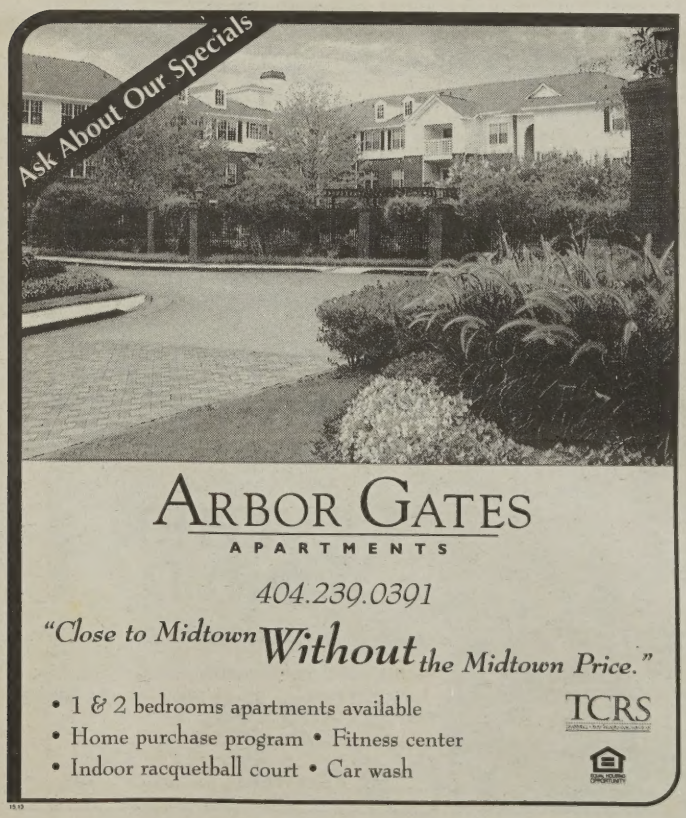
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local news

Lesbians appointed to advisory health boards

Picks to play role in delivering health care to diverse community

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

Two lesbian Atlanta residents were recently appointed to government health panels.

Gov. Roy Barnes appointed Linda McGehee, founder and former executive director of the Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative, to the State Board of Community Health.

The nod came after Fulton County District 6 Commissioner Nancy Boxill recently appointed Joy Barnes, who has volunteered with gay organizations, to the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority Board.

The governor swore in McGehee in a July 23 ceremony at the State Capitol, while Joy Barnes was confirmed in May.

"Linda has dedicated her life to health care," Gov. Barnes said. "I know that she will be a valuable asset as a member of the board."

The Board of Community Health, created in 1999, oversees operations of the state Department of Community Health, which provides insurance to some two million people, plans coverage for uninsured Georgians, coordinates health planning for state agencies and recommends policy regarding rural health, minority healthcare, and women's healthcare issues.

McGehee is an assistant professor of nursing at Georgia State University and serves an advisor to the Fulton County Board of Health & Wellness.

Gary Cox, Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the city of Atlanta, helped lobby the governor to replace Dr. Gary Edelman with another gay appointee.

"I met with the staff of the governor's office to indicate the importance of this position to the gay community," said Cox, who worked for Gov. Barnes before taking a position at City Hall. "I talked about what a good job Edelman had done and how there were direct benefits from having a voice at the table."

Cox credits gay state Rep. Karla Drenner for sealing the deal in a meeting at the governor's office.

McGehee was involved in an effort to establish a gay health clinic and listed the clinic among her more immediate goals to get oriented on the board, she said.

"Certainly, access to healthcare for the GLBT community is very important to me and will continue to be, as well as other vulnerable populations," McGehee said. "I think Gary Edelman has done some really important work by his presence as a gay physician, and I hope to be able to continue some of the work he has done."

Gov. **Roy Barnes** swears in **Linda McGehee** to the State Board of Community Health in a July 23 ceremony at the State Capitol.

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners confirmed Joy Barnes' appointment to the 10-member Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority Board, which oversees Grady Hospital, at its May 15 meeting.

Barnes will serve a four-year term on the Quality Oversight & Public Relations/Government Affairs/Medical School Relations Committee.

She is a public relations and marketing professional with an extensive background in health information services and has served on several other boards, including the Atlanta Pride Committee.

Boxill said Joy Barnes' sexual orientation played a small role in the appointment, but "only to the extent that there is a large gay and lesbian community living in District 6, and I wanted all communities and constituencies to feel like they have an opportunity to serve."

Joy Barnes said she wants to increase the quality of service to constituents as a board member and mentioned the Georgia Cancer Center — which officially opens in January — as a valuable place for "some involvement and interaction with" the lesbian cancer initiative.

In the past, Jeff Graham, executive director of AIDS Survival Project, protested the actions of the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Advisory Board, citing concerns over price hikes of prescription drugs for indigent patients at Grady.

But Boxill's appointment was sound, Graham said.

"I believe that Joy is going to have a very special sensitivity to the needs of poor people, and I think she well serve as a reminder that the lesbian and gay community does depend very heavily on Grady Hospital for health care needs and services," he said.

The prescription price hike was "indefinitely suspended" by the board in 1999, but is a "long-term" problem, Graham said.

"While prescription prices continue to increase, the board continues to seek ways to make an impact beneficial to the indigent community," Joy Barnes said. "It helps to have the affected communities lobby their own elected officials."

Christopher Seely can be reached at cseely@sovo.com.

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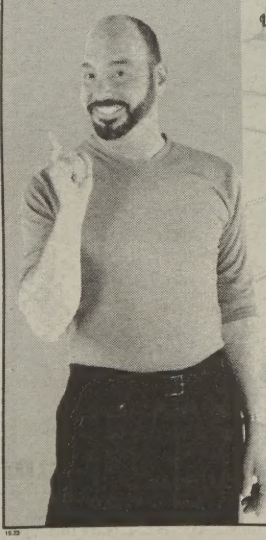

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local news

Green Party goes lavender by tapping gay leader

Third party fields two gay candidates in Ga. as they fight for ballot access

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

Atlanta resident Badili Jones became the first openly gay co-chair of the National Green Party at the party's national convention last month, elevating his status at a time when the Greens are fighting for access to the ballot in a handful of races in Georgia.

Also during the convention, held last month in Philadelphia, the party added the Lavender Green Caucus, the gay and lesbian caucus within the Green Party.

"Right now, we basically have a two-sided responsibility — to educate fellow Greens what gay and lesbian issues are and to educate the broader gay and lesbian community about Green politics," Jones said.

In his national role as a spokesperson, Jones said he plans to raise awareness on a number of the Green Party's platform issues, including its stances on gay issues.

The Greens support gay civil rights in housing, jobs, civil marriage benefits and child custody, according to its 2001 platform.

Although the Greens support gay civil rights legislation, many gays are not fully aware of the gay-friendly party because of a lack of attention from the media, Jones said.

"Primarily, [the Greens] fall below the media screen — that's why there is a lack of awareness," he said.

But, the Lavender Green Caucus provides an opportunity for gay Greens to educate both "inwards and outwards," Jones said.

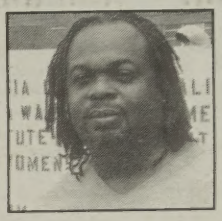
Jones left the Democratic Party during the Clinton administration, saying that he was "never a working Democrat." He joined the Green Party during the 2000 presidential election campaign, he said.

While Jones works to educate a national audience about the Green Party, the organization faces some tough fights locally to gain access to Georgia voters. State election laws make it difficult for third party candidates to see their names on the ballot.

The signatures of one percent of registered voters in the state are required for a party to include its candidates on a statewide election ballot. Parties must also collect signatures from five percent of registered voters in the candidates' respective districts for other elections.

The Green Party boasts five candidates in statewide races this year, including Hugh Esco's campaign for lieutenant governor and Regina Ethridge's race for school superintendent. Both Esco and Ethridge are gay.

Seven candidates running for other offices, including two Congressional seats, are also Green Party candidates.



The Green Party's national committee recently elected openly gay **Badili Jones** as one of its four co-chairs. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

This year, the Green Party must collect 39,108 signatures from registered voters across the state to gain access to the ballot. That requirement could be struck down by Fulton Superior Court Judge Constance Russell, who is scheduled to rule Aug. 22 on a motion for summary judgement in Dickson & Esco v Secretary of State, which charges that the requirement is unconstitutional.

The law has not been successfully applied for a third party candidate to achieve ballot access since the rule was adopted in 1943, Esco said.

"What we have is a ballot access regime that is nearly impossible to comply with," Esco said. "Because our politics are different, we are being excluded from the ballot."

Although the Greens have tried to comply with the ballot access rules, they have encountered police opposition. One party member, Mitch Lawson, collected signatures in a public park in Rome, Ga., on July 4, and police arrested him.

Police have also repeatedly threatened candidates Esco and Kerrie Dickson, who is running for state agricultural commissioner, for petitioning in state parks, store parking lots and on county land, Esco said.

Another pending case, Herman-Griggs v. Cox, pits the Green Party's two Congressional candidates against Secretary of State Cathy Cox. It asks the court to enjoin the enforcement of the ballot access rules for those two candidates due to hindrances of the signature collecting process caused by re-districting earlier this year.

Third party candidates are allowed to collect signatures from Feb. 5 to Aug. 5. But redistricting was not approved until April 1 this year, and the voter registration cards used to validate the signatures are still being released, a week before the petitioning deadline, said David Clark, an attorney representing Herman and Griggs.

The Secretary of State's office declined to comment.

Christopher Seely can be reached at cseely@sovo.com.

MORE INFO

Green Party
www.greens.org
Badili Jones: badili@greens.org
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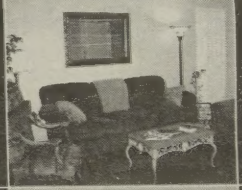
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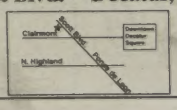

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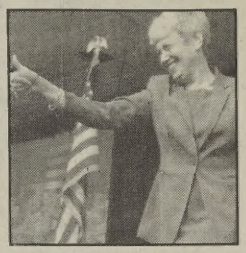
around the nation

Scouts can be barred from Conn. charity list, judge says



Connecticut State Comptroller **Nancy Wyman**, a defendant in a federal lawsuit filed by the Boy Scouts, lauded a ruling that said the state can boot the organization from its charity list. (Photo by Steve Miller/AP)

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut did not violate the rights of the Boy Scouts when it removed the group from a list of charities that state employees contribute to via a payroll deduction plan, a U.S. District Court judge ruled July 22. The Connecticut State Employee Campaign Committee removed the Boy Scouts from its list in 2000 after the state's Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities found that including the Boy Scouts on the list violated the state's anti-discrimination laws. The Irving, Texas-based Boy Scouts, which has a right to ban gay leaders based on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, and one Connecticut scouting council filed a federal discrimination lawsuit against the state, arguing that exclusion from the list was a First Amendment violation. State Comptroller Nancy Wyman, a named defendant in the lawsuit, lauded the decision. "It just basically states that the state of Connecticut does not, and cannot by law, do business with organizations that discriminate," Wyman said. The Boy Scouts and the group's attorney in Connecticut could not be reached by press time. In San Francisco, judges there have become the first in the state to cut ties with the Boy Scouts over its anti-gay policies, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. San Francisco Superior Court judges and commissioners adopted a policy July 11 saying they would not take part in any organization that "discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation."

Conn. appeals court says it can't dissolve civil union

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A gay couple's attempt to have their civil union dissolved was rejected by a Connecticut appeals court last week in what is one of the first such test of the law outside Vermont. Glen Rosengarten and Peter Downes were married in Vermont in 2000, six months after that state enacted the first law in the nation allowing gay couples to enter into a union with some of the same rights as marriage. The Connecticut appeals court ruled that it cannot dissolve their union because Connecticut law does not recognize such relationships. "This is not a test case," said Gary Cohen, Rosengarten's attorney. "These are two very private people who want to have this resolved with dignity and discretion." Cohen said he would encourage Rosengarten to appeal to the Connecticut Supreme Court. Lower court judges had ruled that they did not have jurisdiction.

Lesbian construction worker files bias lawsuit in Il.

CHICAGO — A woman who worked on the city's Deep Tunnel project filed a civil suit last week against a construction company and her former supervisor, alleging sex discrimination, sexual harassment, assault and battery, and hate crime, according to the Chicago Tribune. Djuna R. Diabor filed suit in U.S. District Court against Kenny-Kiewit-Shea Joint Venture and Robert Dodds, a construction supervisor, said her lawyer, William Ryan. "The construction industry has an obligation to protect employees from this kind of harassment," Ryan said. A Kenny-Kiewit-Shea spokesperson said he had not seen the lawsuit. Several times Daibor's supervisor tried to pull her hands toward his crotch, kissed her, forced his hands inside her clothing and, on one occasion, tried to rape her, the lawsuit alleges, after she told him she is a lesbian.

AIDS ride organizers in Il. dump Pallotta

CHICAGO (AP) — In seven years, the Heartland AIDS Ride raised more than $15 million for AIDS-related causes. But shrinking profits and an overall lack of participation have prompted organizers to announce the event has run its last race. The agency is also breaking with Los Angeles-based Pallotta Teamworks, the event's creator and promoter. Pallotta has faced strong criticism recently over its poor returns on AIDS vaccine rides, which the company disbanded last month after low returns for a European event. Last year the Heartland event raised $5.7 million, but the charities only saw about 35.3 percent of that, officials said. "We have an obligation to our clients, our donors and even our states' attorneys general to have a solid return on every fund-raising dollar we spend," said Courtney Reid, president of AIDS Cycle, one of three participating agencies. A scaled down version of the event is planned for next year.

'No' not final answer to HIV-positive 'Sesame Street' character in U.S.

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — PBS won't flatly rule out the addition of an HIV-positive character to "Sesame Street," PBS President Pat Mitchell said July 26. Queried earlier this month by federal lawmakers about an HIV-positive Muppet joining South Africa's "Sesame Street," Mitchell told them no such character was planned for the show's U.S. version. But if the AIDS virus became a more serious problem for U.S. children, "Sesame Street" would be as responsive as it has been to other topics, Mitchell said. The new Muppet character will join South Africa's "Takalani Sesame" in September to help educate children about AIDS at the urging of the South African government.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Gay youth targeted in anti-smoking effort

Tobacco companies, new cessation effort reach out to 'special populations' more likely to smoke

By MIKE FLEMING

A national anti-smoking tour targeting youth ages 18 to 24 — INFKT Truth, a peer-oriented effort of some 70 young people that includes two gay members — hits some 200 cities this summer.

The tour, which ends its Atlanta stop today, comes as evidence from health experts continues to show that gay youth are targeted by tobacco companies, more likely to smoke and have a harder time quitting if they become addicted.

"The INFKT Truth campaign is the largest youth-focused anti-tobacco education campaign ever," said Gina Ivey, a spokesperson for the American Legacy Foundation, which sponsors the tour.

"It is designed to engage teens by exposing Big Tobacco's marketing and manufacturing practices, as well as highlighting the toll of tobacco in relevant and innovative ways," she said.

INFKT attendees hear from other youth about smoking cessation and the ill effects of tobacco use, and also enjoy concerts, festivals, arcades, beaches and sports in conjunction with other teen-focused programs.

Two gay youth — one male and one female — are included as peer marketers in the tour. They were chosen based on "leadership, creativity, independence, anti-tobacco enthusiasm, excellent communications skills and the ability to relate to teens," Ivey said.

"The INFKT Truth Tour gives me the chance to spread the anti-tobacco message to the gay teen community," said Geo Herrera, 20, one of the gay participants. "My involvement will showcase a positive tobacco-free lifestyle for gay teens."

A study by the campaign showed that 59 percent of gay teens smoke, more than twice that of straight teens. The tour offers gay-specific outreach with the marketers looking for venues to spread their message, Herrera said.

"We go to gay clubs and other places where gay people might be, in addition to a lot of straight places," he said. "We're very interested in hitting gay places because we're often overlooked by other programs."

INFKT Truth began in 1999 with a national ad campaign, including one that featured Herrera. The tours started in 2000 as an effort to explain tobacco company practices to teens, including what the group calls misleading information about tobacco health, Ivey said.

"Since then, thousands of young people have gotten involved for a variety of reasons," she said. "Some are aware of the pain of a parent's death from smoking-related illness while others are just convinced that companies should just be more honest and responsible about the products they sell."

southern voice COVER STORY

For Herrera, it was his family experience that motivated him to become involved with "Truth," he said.

"My grampa died of tobacco-related disease, and my Gramma can't put the stuff down," he said. "It really showed me what smoking can do to you."

Gays a 'priority population'

Gays are one of six "priority populations" being targeted by the American Legacy Foundation, an independent organization created by the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement between the tobacco industry and a coalition of state attorneys general.

The ALF is allocating a portion of the billions in tobacco dollars to develop programs aimed specifically at gay smokers and gay youth.

In response to statistics that show 50 percent more gay men and lesbians smoke cigarettes than their straight counterparts, the National Conference on Tobacco Health in New Orleans last year included discussions on how to reach gay smokers with anti-smoking efforts.

Those discussions included a study by the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, which found that gay youth — especially those of color who are from low income families — are not open to adult-run intervention.

NYAC found that five factors must be present to engage youth in non-smoking outreach, said Urooj Arshad, health promotion educator for NYAC.

"Youth are most responsive to social justice, comprehensive health models that include smoking in overall health, making it sexy not to smoke and providing alternatives and most of all, personal ownership of the program," Arshad said. "There must be incentives, they must be engaged as workers or staff and it must be a self-designed marketing program."

The INFKT Truth campaign, which includes two gay teens, is crisscrossing the U.S. with a smoking cessation message crafted for youths ages 18 to 24. The effort is combating years of past marketing like RJ Reynolds' Joe Camel, a symbol often criticized for appealing to teens. (Photo illustration by John Nail)

Those ideas are behind the INFKT Truth program, Ivey said.

"The youth marketers connect with teens on their own terms to spread the word about the deadly toll of tobacco and the tobacco industry's targeted marketing practices, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth," she said.

Cheryl Healton, president and CEO of ALF, said it is critical to craft messages specifically for teens.

"The tour is a grassroots counter marketing campaign created to reach teens in their own places, with their own peers," Healton said.

"We're not preaching to kids," Herrera agreed. "We're just people out there kickin' it with other people on their own level, finding out what they're going through."

Tobacco giant calls gays 'SCUM'

The American Lung Association sponsors a watchdog program of tobacco companies, including acquiring internal memos that officials say prove that the companies target gays.

A marketing memo from Benson & Hedges called for a study to identify the "intrinsic needs and desires" of gay smokers so that the company could "claim a significant portion of the gay smoking market."

RJ Reynolds targeting of gays surfaced with reports of Project SCUM, or Sub Culture Urban Marketing, an effort to ramp up sales of the company's Red Kamel brand. Project SCUM documents identified its targets as "gays, foreigners, Generation X and street people."

Companies like Reynolds and Phillip Morris — who offer financial help to political figures like anti-gay U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms — have become big-dollar supporters of gay causes, like AIDS charities, in order to ally themselves with gays, according to the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Tobacco Free Project.

Participants in the New Orleans conference also pointed out that the tobacco industry has begun to sponsor smoking areas at large gay events and has learned to adopt language in their ads that are hot-button issues for gays, publishing ads with terms like "diversity," "domestic partners" and "anti-discrimination."

Other studies, including government-sponsored research by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, show that gays may be more vulnerable to cigarette advertising.

"Tobacco use is equated with being macho by gay men," said Perry Stevens, an independent consultant for the CDC's Office on Smoking & Tobacco Health. "We eroticize and fetishize tobacco use like cigarettes in bars and in clubs for gay cigar aficionados."

The Internet has as many as 50 sites that eroticize smoking, including teen-specific ones such as "SmokingIsCool" and "TeenBoySmokers."

Some gay pornographic movie stars also lend their images and names to such e-mail groups as "SmokingMalePornStars" on Yahoo!.

Gay docs, local center on band wagon

The Gay & Lesbian Medical Association weighed in on gay smoking last month when it released two Top 10 recommendations for gay patients to discuss with their doctors. "Tobacco" is on the lists for both gay men and lesbians.

"Everything we know about smoking in our community is that it is higher, often much higher for us," said Christopher Harris, president of GLMA. "Unfortunately, rates of smoking among young people are even higher and far worse for LGBTQ youth."

Low self esteem among gay youth, internalized homophobia, lack of support from family and peers, depression and stressful life events related to coming out may be part of the reason they are more likely to smoke, Harris said.

"There is a community disenfranchisement for gay youth," the NYAC's Arshad agreed. "Our culture isolates them, and they frequently become depressed and seek ways to escape or become part of the 'in-crowd.'"

Officials at YouthPride in Atlanta have not only noticed a high incidence of gay smoking, but the group includes anti-smoking discussions in support groups, said Rasika Weinstein, volunteer assistant to YouthPride's executive director.

"When YouthPride first started six years ago, we had people come out and talk about smoking," Weinstein said. "Now it has been integrated as a common topic in our regular discussions.

"Several of the kids do go outside to smoke, and there is a high incidence of smoking among gay people. If we know kids are addicted to cigarettes, we bring it up and make sure they know there are alternatives and that they have our support if they want to quit," she said.

Herrera said that many of his gay friends feel additional pressure that heterosexual teens don't have.

"Smoking is something they can control," he said, citing a common saying on the "Truth" Web site: "At least Joe Camel doesn't kick them out of the house."

Mike Fleming can be reached at mfleming@sovo.com.

MORE INFO

'The Truth'
www.thetruth.com

American Legacy Foundation
1001 G St., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
202-454-5655
www.americanlegacy.org

National Youth Advocacy Coalition
1638 R Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20009
202-319-9513
www.nyacyouth.org

national news

RAVE Act moves to slower beat

Sponsor predicts eventual passage but meets with critics

By KEITH TAYLOR

WASHINGTON — The pace of the once fast-moving RAVE Act has slowed as opponents of the bill lobby lawmakers to amend the proposal.

Opponents of the Reducing Americans' Vulnerability to Ecstasy Act would prefer to see the bill scuttled, but at the very least they are seeking changes that would afford more protections to rave party organizers and owners of establishments where gay rave and circuit parties take place.

"There is no impending movement that we know of on the bill," said Chip Unruh, a spokesman for Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), the bill's primary sponsor. Republicans placed a hold on all legislation coming out of the Judiciary Committee, but that hold has since been lifted, Unruh said.

But he still predicted passage for the legislation.

"It has bipartisan support and doesn't have any real strong opposition that I can think of here in Congress," Unruh said.

Unruh did not rule out action on the bill before adjournment, but he said, "I don't have any strong indication telling me that that is definitely going to be the case."

He referred questions about scheduling of the bill to Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), whose press office did not return phone calls by press time.

Representatives of the Drug Policy Alliance and the American Civil Liberties Union planned to meet Thursday on Capitol Hill with Biden and bill co-sponsors Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.). The groups want to talk with lawmakers "about ways [the RAVE bill] can be fixed," said Bill Piper, associate director of the DPA.

"We've managed to slow the bill down," Piper said. He said action on the bill is not likely before the Senate recesses this week.

Piper said co-sponsors seem receptive to possible amendments.

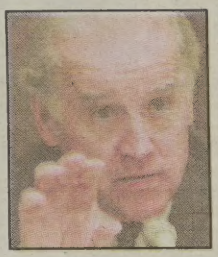
"I suspect they'll bend, and we'll get a better bill in the Senate," Piper said.

Biden might also be receptive, but because it's his bill, Piper said.

"He takes the issue personally, really," he said.

The bill caught rave and gay circuit party organizers and clubs by surprise, prompting an outcry from opponents who said that the act would unfairly hold business operators responsible for the actions of some patrons.

The bill, which Biden introduced June 18, would amend the federal anti-drug statute known as the Crack House Act. That law allows prosecutors to file criminal and civil charges against owners of buildings that can be show to "knowingly" allow drug use and sales on their premises.



Sen. **Joe Biden** (D-Del.) met with opponents of the RAVE bill, which he introduced, to consider amendments that may provide more safeguards for legitimate rave and gay circuit party promoters.

The RAVE Act would "prohibit an individual from knowingly opening, maintaining, managing, controlling, renting, leasing, making available for use, or profiting from any place for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing or using any controlled substance."

The bill is "too broadly written," Piper said, and by targeting rave events, the matter becomes a free speech issue. Even by calling it the RAVE Act, the bill singles out a particular form of self-expression, Piper said.

Depending on how the bill is enforced, he said, business owners and promoters could face jail time and fines for the actions of people who attend rave parties. The bill could lead club owners to take steps from eliminating so-called "chill rooms" or stopping techno music, "anything that they think prosecutors aren't going to like."

Piper described the DPA as the nation's largest drug policy organization. It aims to seek "alternatives to the war on drugs" by emphasizing treatment and harm reduction programs. He acknowledged but did not defend the use of drugs by some who attend rave parties.

"People definitely use drugs at raves," Piper said. "But they use drugs at all sorts of events." He said he did not believe drugs are any more prevalent at raves than at other large dance parties.

MORE INFO

Drug Policy Alliance
925 15th St. NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20005
202-216-0035
www.drugpolicy.org

U.S. Sen. Joseph Biden
221 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
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around the world

Canadian government to appeal ruling in favor of gay marriages

OTTAWA (AP) — The Canadian government said Monday it will appeal an Ontario court ruling that calls for legal recognition of same-sex marriages. Justice Minister Martin Cauchon said his department must challenge the July 12 ruling that Canada's marriage law is unconstitutional because it allows only opposite-sex unions. "The government believes it is the responsible course to seek further clarity on these issues," Cauchon said. The ruling by a three-judge panel of the Ontario Superior Court was a major step toward the formal recognition of gay marriages in Canada. Under existing laws, marriage certificates are issued only to heterosexual couples, though gay couples can get similar rights and privileges as licensed marriages. Ontario Justice Heather Smith suspended the ruling for two years to give the federal Parliament time to redefine the term "marriage."

Canadian Justice Minister **Martin Cauchon** (left) said the government will appeal a recent ruling that was hailed as a major step in the recognition of gay marriages. (Photo by Marcos Townsend/AP)

HIV-positive soldiers dismissed from Australian armed services

MELBOURNE, Australia — The Australian Defense Force has dismissed up to eight soldiers for testing HIV positive, the Herald Sun reported. A landmark 1998 court ruling gave the ADF legal protection to discriminate against HIV soldiers because of the risk they posed in certain situations. The ADF last week confirmed eight serving personnel had been diagnosed with HIV since 1995 and said it was likely all had been given a medical discharge. The Full Court of the Federal Court in 1998 overturned earlier decisions by a Federal Court judge and the Equal Opportunity Commission that the force had broken the law by rejecting a recruit because of his HIV status. The Full Court's judgment centered on issues of "bleeding safely," the risk of infecting others and the force's need to send soldiers into conflict. "HIV testing is carried out on all applicants to the ADF," spokesperson Emma Diffen said. She said applicants with HIV were automatically rejected.

Australian athletes angry over photos on gay Web site

SYDNEY, Australia — Australian Football League players angry about indecently retouched pictures of them appearing on a Web site for gay football fans have been told there is little Australian law can do to protect them, the Australian reported. A number of the game's biggest names are featured bare-chested on a Web page that caters to gay AFL fans and is accessed through Internet site Ninemsn. The Melbourne Herald Sun reported that Port Adelaide captain Matthew Primus said a full frontal nude shot on the site was not him. Ninemsn is a joint venture between Microsoft and Kerry Packer's Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd., which owns the Nine Network, one of the AFL's major broadcast partners. Although most of the photos appear to be taken at swimming sessions or were lifted from AFL-sanctioned beefcake calendars, several have been altered to give the impression the players are naked. "The law doesn't protect players from the unauthorized use of their image," AFLPA legal adviser Adrian Anderson said. A spokesperson for Ninemsn was unavailable for comment.

Gays in Hong Kong charge that sex laws discriminate

HONG KONG (AP) — Five gay rights activists complained to an equal opportunities watchdog last week that Hong Kong laws discriminate against gays by making certain sexual acts criminal offenses only for men. "There are people who fall victim to this law every year," said Tommy Chen, who added that some of his friends had been arrested on sex charges for having anal intercourse. Hong Kong can imprison a man for life for having anal intercourse with another male who is under 21, but the law allows the same act between a man and a woman under 21, Chen said. "Despite a lower age of consent for homosexual intercourse in some other countries ... it would be inappropriate for Hong Kong to follow other countries without due regard to the local circumstances," the Home Affairs Bureau said in a statement. The bureau said the law is intended to prevent young men from making decisions about engaging in homosexual acts before they are mature enough, and it also can stop some younger gays from blackmailing older sex partners.

Russian author defiant in facing pornography charges

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian writer Vladimir Sorokin — under investigation on a charge of disseminating pornography in a novel that depicts sexual contact between Soviet leaders Josef Stalin and Nikita Khrushchev — refused to answer police questions Monday. "I refused to give evidence because I consider this matter absurd, vicious and humiliating to me as a writer and humiliating to Russian literature as a whole," Sorokin said. Police opened an investigation of Sorokin's 1999 novel "Goluboye Salo" — translated as "Blue Lard" or "Gay Lard" — after prosecutors deemed parts of the work pornographic. The book came to the attention of prosecutors after youth group Walking Together filed a criminal complaint accusing Sorokin of disseminating pornography. About 15 people rallied in support of the author on Monday. The demonstrators held signs that read "We're Defending Art" and "Prosecutors and Censorship are Walking Together."

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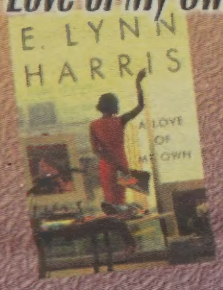

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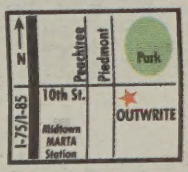

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Egyptian trial on gay sex charges stalled by judge

CAIRO, Egypt — The trial of 50 men in Cairo accused of depraved behavior for being gay was adjourned on July 27 to give the defense more time to prepare its case, according to BBC News. Twenty-one of the men were originally convicted last November, but the state security court verdict was overturned by President Hosni Mubarak, who ordered that the case be heard again in criminal court. One defense lawyer complained about the retrying of men who were already acquitted, and the judge then adjourned the case until September. Gays were until recently quietly tolerated in Egypt, but authorities began a major crackdown last year with a night raid on a disco where some of the men were arrested. Homosexuality itself is not a crime. The men are charged with offending public morals. Two other men, also convicted last November, are serving prison terms, and their cases are not subject to a re-trial.

Egyptian President **Hosni Mubarak** overturned the conviction of 50 men on gay sex charges earlier this year. But the men face a new trial. (Photo by Amir Nabil/AP)

Fla. prosecutors may charge hate crime though victims heterosexual

FORT MEYERS, Fla. — The state attorney's office is reviewing whether a fight on Fort Myers Beach could be a case of gay bashing that should be prosecuted as a hate crime, reported the Fort Myers News-Press. Two brothers were beaten May 18 and said that the attackers called them "faggots," "homos" and "queers" during the fight. While the brothers are not gay, the case could still be tried as a hate crime, said Tony Schall, a spokesperson for the state attorney. "We have not made a decision at this time regarding whether we will charge it as a hate crime," Schall said. Michael and Charles "Pat" Bates insist that hatred of gays motivated the beating, and claim deputies forced them to remove any reference to gay bashing from their statements about the incident. The brothers have filed complaints against the sheriff's deputies. Four men were arrested and charged with battery, and a fifth man is still on the lam.

Ohio gay man provoked into attacking co-worker, judge agrees

WARREN, Ohio — A man said three months of taunting about being gay caused him to beat a female co-worker here, according to the Warren Tribune Chronicle. Norris Kelly, 38, was found guilty July 23 in the beating of Eileen Barnett last year. Kelly apologized for his actions to the judge at his sentencing, but said he lost control because Barnett and other employees constantly harassed him about his sexual orientation. Barnett denies the harassment, but Kelly said the taunting reached a breaking point April 14, 2001. "The anxieties that I had just kicked in, and I just did what I did," Kelly said. Kelly punched Barnett four to five times in the face. The judge acknowledged Kelly was guilty of assault, but said that there was "strong provocation." Kelly was sentenced to 180 days in jail with 179 days suspended and credited with the one day he served.

'Frolic that went wrong' blamed in decades-old death of gay man

SYDNEY, Australia — Scotland Yard released earlier this month a 30-year-old report that dismissed the 1972 death of academic and gay activist George Duncan at the hands of three policemen as "merely a high-spirited frolic that went wrong," the Australian reported. The document recounts the drowning of Duncan after he and another gay man were thrown into a river at a gay meeting spot. Duncan's body was pulled from the river after another man who was thrown into the river, Roger James, told police of the assault. James said three men pushed Duncan into the water. James was also attacked and thrown in the water. He called for help for Duncan, who was struggling, and another man stripped and dived after him. "(He) surfaced and said, 'He's gone, I can't find him'," according to the report. Constables Francis John Cawley and Michael Kenneth Clayton and Senior Constable Brian Hudson refused to give evidence at the inquest and were suspended. In 1986, the three were charged with Duncan's death; charges against Cawley were dropped and the other two men were acquitted.

Calif. man accused of defacing AIDS memorial site

SAN FRANCISCO — Police arrested a 20-year-old San Francisco man on charges of vandalism with a hate crime enhancement after he allegedly scrawled anti-gay epithets on markers at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park last month, according to the San Francisco Chronicle. Philip Atkinson was arrested July 22 and is accused of marking the grove's flagstone, boulders and a bench with anti-gay epithets, including a remark about a gay police officer who has been involved in graffiti eradication efforts. In some cases, Atkinson used a pen to write over and next to the names of people who died of AIDS, police said. Atkinson allegedly left his distinctive tag behind in an earlier incident of vandalism, police said.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Gay group pushes for ratification of women's rights treaty

NGLTF says long-delayed pact would benefit lesbians

By RHONDA SMITH

Leaders at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force urged the organization's members last week to lobby for a 22-year-old international treaty created to promote equality for women.

"Basic equality for women should be a no-brainer," said Lorri L. Jean, executive director of NGLTF. "Yet the anti-gay right wing in America has blocked this treaty for nearly a quarter-century."

Sean Cahill, director of NGLTF's Policy Institute, said the gay political organization is lobbying for U.S. Senate ratification of the treaty, known as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), because of its direct impact on women, including lesbians.

"Half of gay people are women so it will have a direct impact on lesbians," he said. "But also, it's about equality. As a gay man, I should be concerned about this passing as well."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 12-7 on Tuesday, in favor of ratifying the treaty, which urges nations to remove barriers to equality for women in education, employment, marriage and divorce, health care, and other areas.

Under pressure from conservative opponents to the treaty, the Bush administration recently asked the Senate to postpone a vote on it until the U.S. Department of Justice reviews it. Democrats rejected the request.

Bush officials and Republicans have said the treaty's text is vague and that they are concerned by related U.N. panel reports. Secretary of State Colin Powell said in a letter to Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that while the Bush administration supports the treaty's goals, it wants time to examine the treaty and the "basis, practical effect and any possible implications of the reports."

"It's not a long or complicated treaty," Cahill said. "For the Bush administration to say the Justice Department needs to review it is disingenuous. If he's opposed to it, he should come out and say that."

Scott McClellan, a spokesperson for the White House, told the New York Times that the administration "strongly supports the goals" of the treaty but has concerns about whether it might infringe on U.S. laws.

The ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations committee's, historically anti-gay Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina, said in a letter that the U.N. panel's findings "are simply out of step with generally held values of democratic nations."

Lorri L. Jean, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, called for ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. (File photo by Clint Steib)

Two Republican senators, Gordon Smith of Oregon and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, joined the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's 10 Democrats in voting in favor of the treaty.

Before Bush can consider the treaty for ratification, two-thirds of the Senate, or 67 members, would have to vote in favor of granting advice and consent for ratification.

Lester Munson, a spokesperson for the Senate committee's Republicans, predicted the recent vote would only increase objections to the treaty.

"I think we're going to see a lot of people raise their voice with objections and concerns and actual passage on the floor is going to face a stiff challenge," he said.

The treaty's supporters hope to schedule a floor vote on it in the full Senate in September, before the midterm elections. The hope is that pressure from women who support the treaty would push moderate Republicans to vote for it.

The treaty has garnered little attention since 1980 because Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush gave it a low priority. The Clinton administration pushed to have the committee consider it in 1994.

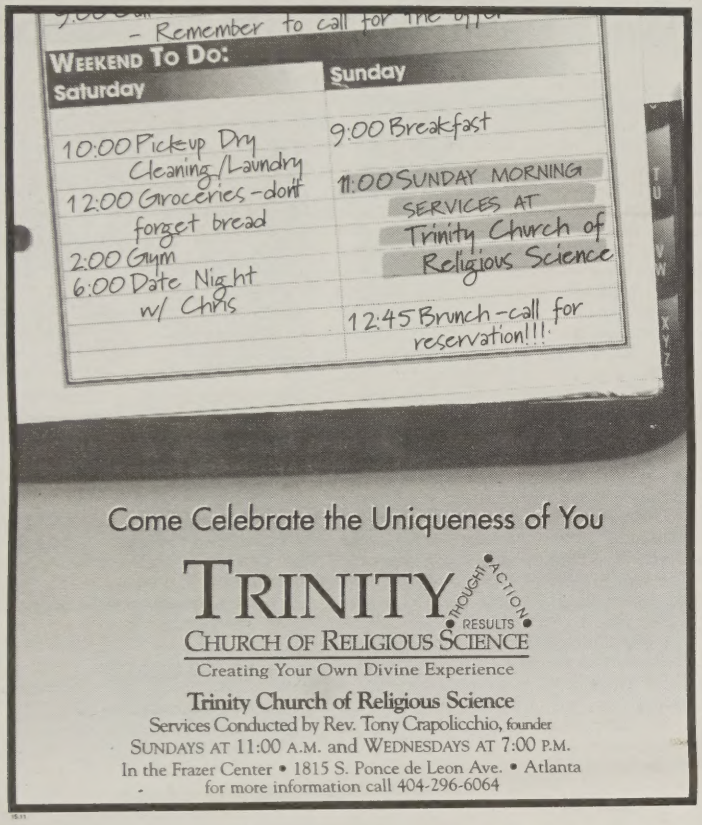
As many as 170 countries have ratified the treaty, which President Carter signed as he was leaving office in 1980 .

The U.S. is the only industrialized nation, among 21 countries, that has not ratified the treaty. Other countries that have not ratified it include Iran, Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Monaco and the United Arab Emirates.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

MORE INFO

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
1700 Kalorama Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009-2624
202-332-6483
www.ngltf.org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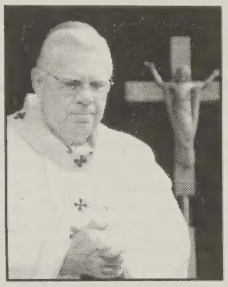
religion report

Boston cardinal calls on Catholics to boycott gay unions

TORONTO — Catholics should boycott same-sex union ceremonies because attending them would lend support to unnatural relationships, Boston Cardinal Bernard Law said last week. "For us to give public recognition of that in any way is to confirm a pattern of living that is not ordained by God," Law told about 500 Boston-area pilgrims at a July 26 catechism session associated with World Youth Day, the Boston Herald reported. Law — at the center of a church sexual abuse scandal that has gripped the U.S Catholic church — said sex other than that shared by a husband and wife "is not in accord with the teaching of Jesus and the church." Charles Martel of the Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry said the Catholic Church is "so focused on sex that they cannot see beyond that." Meanwhile, disaffected Roman Catholics who followed Pope John Paul II to Toronto aired their grievances from inside an Anglican church several miles from the exhibition hall serving as the center of the official event. Inside the church were tables filled with handouts on issues ranging from gay rights to abortion rights. Along with buttons and temporary tattoos, protesters gave away condoms wrapped with a picture of an angel and the message, "If abstinence isn't working for you."



Cardinal **Bernard Law**, under fire for his handling of a church sexual abuse scandal in Boston, said gay unions are 'not ordained by God.' (Photo by Gretchen Ertl/AP)

New Anglican leader criticized for gay-friendly positions

LONDON — Gay and lesbian Anglicans praised the selection of Rowan Williams as the 104th archbishop of Canterbury, but conservative critics raised concerns about his tolerance of homosexuality and his support for women as clerics. Britain announced July 24 that Williams, 52, will succeed George Carey, who is retiring as the spiritual leader of the world's 70 million Anglicans, the New York Times reported. "Under (Williams's) leadership, homophobia will be challenged and intolerance rooted out," said Rev. Richard Kirker, general secretary of the Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement. Frank Naggs, a member of a conservative evangelical group within the church, said his group would press for an early meeting with Williams to discuss what Naggs called "his radical agenda." Williams alarmed some conservative Anglicans when he ordained a gay priest, the Associated Press reported. "I don't see my task as going around the bedroom with a magnifying glass doing surveillance," Williams said earlier this year.

Gay minister says Falwell's church 'toxic'

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Three years ago, Rev. Mel White tried to persuade Rev. Jerry Falwell to tone down his anti-gay rhetoric, and Falwell agreed to help combat violence against gays. Now White has declared Thomas Road Baptist Church a "Toxic Religion Zone," and Falwell has vowed not to give White a platform at his church. "Instead of curtailing the rhetoric, it's gone to new lows," White told the Lynchburg News & Advance. Falwell accused gays of being partly responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a statement he later apologized for making. But, White said, Falwell subsequently used the same remark in a fund-raising appeal. White and his Soulforce group will come to Lynchburg Oct. 25-27. "We will not change our message," Falwell said.

Complaint dropped against lesbian Methodist pastor

SEATTLE (AP) — A committee has dismissed a complaint against a lesbian minister accused of violating the United Methodist Church's ban on gays from being ordained or serving as pastors. The decision averts a church trial for Rev. Karen Dammann and returns her to good standing within the denomination. "It means I can go back to work and do what I've always done and felt called to do," Dammann said July 26. She lives with her partner and their 4-year-old son in Massachusetts, where she serves a United Church of Christ congregation as a fill-in pastor. Dammann declared her sexual orientation in February 2001 when asking the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference for another church appointment. She had served as pastor of Seattle's Woodland Park Church until 1999, when she took a leave. After receiving her letter, Methodist Bishop Elias Galvan filed a complaint against Dammann.

Neb. minister won't face charges for role in same-sex union

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Methodist minister will not face church charges of misconduct for his role in a same-sex union because he did not perform the ceremony, church officials said July 23. Rev. Jay Vetter presided over a worship service immediately before the commitment ceremony between two men May 25 at St. Mark's-on-the-Campus Episcopal Church in Lincoln. His wife, Maureen, then performed the ceremony while wearing her husband's stole, the Lincoln Journal-Star reported. She is not an ordained minister. "He cannot be charged because he did not actually perform the ceremony," said Cheryl Edwards, a spokesperson for the Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church. Prior to the ceremony, Vetter performed what he called a lamentation service — a time to mourn those things lost or never had — and handed his stole to his wife before leaving the chapel.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Gay marriage foes press on despite snub in Mass.

Blocked vote on constitutional amendment raises conservative ire

By SCOTT GIORDANO

BOSTON — Religious conservatives have vowed to fight with renewed vigor for a constitutional amendment in Massachusetts to ban same-sex marriages in that state, and have threatened to begin a "seismic revolution in Massachusetts politics."

The announcement follows a major setback for conservatives in the Massachusetts legislature, which came July 17 when voting was blocked on a citizen-initiated measure that could have banned same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic-partner benefits including health insurance, bereavement leave and hospital visitation rights.

"The politicians believe they have successfully ended the debate and the vote about marriage — but they are wrong," reads an open letter from Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage, the group behind the right's effort. "The debate is just starting and the vote is yet to happen. ... This is now an uprising against a failed government."

The letter said members of Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage would individually survey "each politician who voted against democracy" and give them "a chance to vote again."

"Our legislature broke the law and defeated the measure without allowing a vote on its merits. ... If the politicians continue to treat the voters with such contempt ... it will have profound effects upon our entire political structure."

Sara Pawlick, president of Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage, referred all related questions back to the statement.

At issue was a citizen-initiated petition in the Massachusetts legislature, labeled the Protection of Marriage Amendment, which would have required 50 votes in a joint House-Senate Constitutional Convention. If the measure had passed, it then would have had to pass one more legislative session by the same margin to be placed on the 2004 election ballot for voter ratification.

The proposed amendment's sweeping language would have amended the state's constitution to define marriage as "between one man and one woman" and would have prevented gay couples from receiving any "benefits or incidents exclusive to marriage."

The measure was believed to have enough votes for passage, but it was defeated when Thomas Birmingham, the Democratic Senate president and a candidate for governor, called for an adjournment vote during a joint House-Senate Constitutional Convention before a vote could take place.

The 137-53 adjournment vote effectively killed the measure, despite the support of some 130,000 Massachusetts residents who signed a petition calling for the voter referendum.

Massachusetts Republican Gov. Jane Swift has publicly opposed the amendment and is unlikely to use her executive powers to reconvene the Legislature over the issue. Calls to Swift's office were not returned at press time.

Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, was among those who lobbied Birmingham and commended his efforts.

"We worked very closely with Birmingham's office because he strongly opposed the amendment and was prepared to help us find a legitimate way to defeat it, and we presented a number of options to him for ways to do that. He chose one which clearly involved taking a leadership role on his part," Isaacson said.

In an unusual display of solidarity, conservative gay activists supported more liberal gay activists and the approach used to defeat the anti-gay measure.

"I think that it was not inappropriate in these circumstances for the leadership and Sen. Birmingham to do what he did. It's interesting what it says about where the gay community is politically these days,

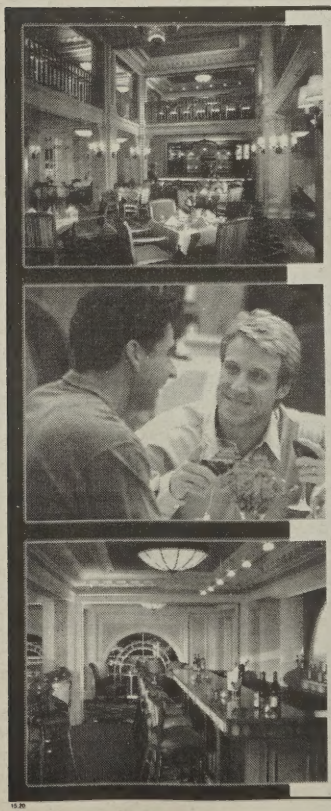
Mary Bonauto, an attorney Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, says a lawsuit forcing Massachusetts lawmakers to reconvene would not compel them to act on a same-sex marriage ban. (Photo courtesy International Lesbian & Gay Law Association)

when somebody in the middle of a hotly contested gubernatorial election ... would take such a step. I think it's to be applauded," said Mark Goshko, spokesman for the Log Cabin Republicans of Massachusetts, a gay Republican group.

But conservatives do have the option of filing a potential lawsuit against the governor, although it is not likely to make a difference.

Isaacson believes the nature of the amendment created unusual circumstances.

"Civil rights should never be placed on the ballot for a popular vote," she said.



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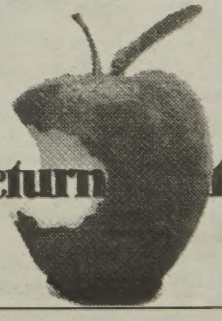

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Except For One Little Problem

Joan Denson was the American Dream except for one little problem: she was a lesbian. This is a memoir of the girl-next-door who faces her homosexuality and finds herself unwelcome in her surroundings.

A child, during WWII the author came of age reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*. The memories of oppression and suffering of the innocent so captured her imagination that she struck up a friendship with Anne Frank's father and visited Anne's annex, where she found in her attachment for Anne a hidden piece of herself.

By early adulthood Denson absorbed the culture of the fifties, and era famous for its "loud events and quiet discontents". With a husband and children, she coveted suburban bliss as much as the next girl. But something was amiss. That something came in the form of a lesbian experience that led her to realize what had been missing all along.

A precursor to the "lipstick lesbian", the author, now a prominent Beverly Hills psychotherapist, recounts the struggles, joys and humor of growing up homosexual in an era of repression. Her memoir provides a first-person account of the evolution of sexual mores over the last thirty years.

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Hallelujah bingo

Tammy Sue Bakker headlines PALS 'Gospel Bingo'

By MATT REEG

Atlanta's Pets Are Loving Support hosts its sixth annual "Gospel Bingo" Aug. 8 with special guest Tammy Sue Bakker, the gospel celebrity and daughter of the much maligned but memorable Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker.

Bakker will open the PALS event with a 15-minute concert, including at least one song from her new CD, which will be for sale at the event.

Following the brief performance, Bakker will recite the "bingo pledge" reminding patrons how their participation helps PALS continue to operate, providing food and other services to help people with HIV care for their pets.

After Bakker's performance, Bubba D. Licious, the long-time campy drag queen host of the monthly bingo event, will take over and start the game as usual while performing "her own schtick," according to Denise Arrigali, spokesperson for PALS.

Tammy Sue Bakker is the daughter of pioneer televangelist Jim Bakker and perpetually perky singer Tammy Faye Bakker. She grew up in front of a national audience on "Praise the Lord," the television network her parents founded in the 1980s.

"It's really hard to pigeon-hole her fan base," said Richard Boggs, Bakker's spokesperson. "It ranges from little old ladies which goes back to her PTL days" to "a lot of gay male fans," he said.

Bakker's last CD sold over 19 million copies, Boggs said. Her music ministry is based in Atlanta, and her typical venues have been as diverse as her fans, including churches, conferences and cabarets.

Bakker and her family are "very much more secular people than they are religious," Boggs said, and Bakker has been active in AIDS-related charities in North Carolina.

"She's been interested in getting involved in PALS for years," he said.

PALS' "Gospel Bingo" recurs every year, and each monthly bingo event features a theme. Past themes have included leather, leprachaun, trailer park, country-western and patriotic. Future themes under consideration are uniform (military) and beauty pageant.

There's a "cult following," Arrigali said. "It's a place for everybody to get together."

Patrons are not required to dress the part, but at past "Gospel Bingo" events, there have been players in evangelist-style dress, according to Ken Rich, PALS executive director.

Bingo is the only continuously running fund-raiser for PALS. The cost is $10 per person and attendance generally runs at 500 players, and occasionally tops 700, Rich said. Prizes range from $100 to the $500 jackpot.

For August's event, "our goal is to raise as much as we can," Rich said. Bakker has a "small little fee" that was paid by one of PALS' current donors, so the special performance will not cost PALS any of the proceeds, according to Rich.

Even though bingo provides PALS with its steady income, its largest single-event fund-raiser is "Rubbing Noses," planned for Sept. 3. at Foundry Puritan Mill.

"It's a male and female fashion show, and all the runway models are escorted by dogs from the Atlanta Kennel Club," Rich said.

The fashion show is a partnership with Neiman-Marcus and is the organization's "highest-grossing event," raising as much as $120,000, Rich said. While the crowd at bingo is mostly gay, according to Arrigali, "Rubbing Noses" draws a more diverse crowd, ranging in the past from the mayor to gay leaders to charitable socialites.

These upcoming fund-raisers coincide with a change in financial direction for PALS. While a new capital campaign has not yet been officially announced, there is "an exploratory committee that is researching where we want to move to," Rich said.

PALS seeks its own building where it can host all of its events under one roof. After the committee makes a decision, "we can decide how much money we want to raise, and once we raise half of it, we can announce we're doing it," Rich said.

The group would like to move by September 2004. "We're talking to donors now," he said.

PALS has also recently expanded its mission. Originally an HIV/AIDS-related organization, the group has recently widened its client base to include people with other chronic conditions including the visually impaired, people with ALS, and those with other disabilties.

Tammy Sue Bakker, daughter of Jim and Tammy Faye, performs Aug. 8 at PALS's 'Gospel Bingo' at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center.

The organization is dedicated to making sure people do not lose their pets because of their illness. The group offers pet food and annual veterinary care including shots and heartworm preventative for the pets of clients who have less than $18,000 in annual income.

PALS also offers "foster care" for pets if their owners must be hospitalized or cared for in a hospice.

Matt Reeg can be reached at mreeg@sovo.com.

MORE INFO

PALS Gospel Bingo
Aug. 8, Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Ramada Inn & Conference Center
418 Armour Drive
Atlanta, GA 30324
404-876-PALS
www.palsatlanta.org/events.htm

Tammy Sue Bakker
Indigo Moon Artist Management & Consulting
3267 Buford Highway, Suite 720-111
Atlanta, GA 30329-1707
404-244-3834
www.tammysuebakker.com

notes

SUNDAY AUG. 4

BAR-B-CUEING FOR EQUALITY: Georgia Equality, the statewide gay political group, hosts its annual bar-b-cue with the Human Rights Campaign at My Sister's Room, 222 E. Howard in Decatur from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The band Thrill Machine will perform, and political candidates will be in attendance to rally gay support before the Aug. 20 state primaries. Tickets are $10 in advance and $15 at the door. 404-872-3600

RIDE 'EM, COWBOYS: The Southeast Gay Rodeo Association leads the herd to soak up some sun and fun on a rafting trip on the Ocoee River in Tennessee. Don't forget your life vest and Stetson hat, pardner. Call the SEGRA hotline. 770-662-9510

TUESDAY AUG. 6

ANGELS, ALIENS, AND VAMPIRES: The Atlanta OutWorlders meet at Miss Q's Neighborhood Bar on Amsterdam Avenue to admire the pretty faces and stimulating plot on 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' and 'Dark Angel.' 770-451-8947

THURSDAY AUG. 8

CLITERARY STIMULATION: Cliterati hosts its biweekly female open mike night at 8 p.m. at Tower II, 735 Ralph McGill Blvd. This week's theme is a follow up to the popular 'Letters We Never Sent' called 'Letters Never Sent: the sequel.' Cliterati is for women only and is trans-inclusive. Past events have either featured a theme or well-known women on the spoken word circuit. 404-687-9807

FRIDAY AUG. 9

LIVE GIRLS...READING! Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave., hosts its quarterly young women's reading night at 7:30 p.m. Female youth who have recently participated in and who have graduated from the high school women's writers program will read new passages and selections from an anthology still in-the-making. Mentors Bell Hooks and Shay Youngblood will be in attendance. The evening is free and open to the public. 404-524-0304

MATT REEG

COMMUNITY CALENDAR, Page 20 ATLANTA NEWS BRIEFS, Page 21 ATLANTA OCCASIONS, Page 52

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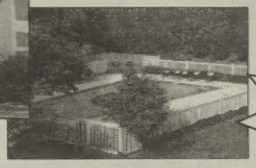

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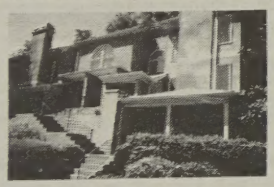

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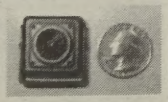

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community calendar

ATLANTA

SATURDAY AUG. 3

ATLANTA GIRTH & MIRTH. 9 pm. Social activities for large men and their admirers. The Eagle, 306 Ponce de Leon. 770-663-7041

ATLANTA PRIME-TIMERS. 3 pm. A social group for older gay and bisexual men, 40+. Ponce de Leon Library. 770-441-5573 or www.primetimers.org/atlanta

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION OPEN PLAY. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

FRONT RUNNERS. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

GEORGIA FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S LEAGUE. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

SUNDAY AUG. 4

20-SOMETHING. 6:30 pm. For persons 21-30. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 11 am. Water Polo/Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. 4 pm. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard, Decatur. 404-370-0920

BLACK RAINBOW. 6:30-8 pm. Social, support group for young black, gay and bisexual men. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard, Decatur. 404-378-6620.

GSV HEART CIRCLE. 7:30 pm. Gay Spirit Visions. Innovox Lounge. Matt 404-248-9649, pretzelulu@aol.com

MY BROTHAZ KEEPER. 6:30 pm. Discussion group for gay, bisexual and questioning men of African heritage, 25-. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 5th floor. 404-978-1268, ext. 1945

SOUTHEAST GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION. Monthly meeting. 770-662-9510

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION. Healing touch and polarity therapies. 11:15-1pm. Call to sign up for free sessions. 404-257-1843

MONDAY AUG. 5

AIDGWINNETT & POSITIVE PEACHES. 7:30 pm. PWA & family/friends/partners/volunteers support group. Rockdale Hospital, 1412 Milestead Ave., Conyers. First level in Birthing Center. 770-356-5645

GRRL GROUP. 6:30 – 8 p.m. Ages 13-17. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

HOTLANTA SQUARES. High energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. Call 404-822-6785 or E-mail: hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

LESBIAN SEXUALITY SERIES. Butches Only Discussion Group. 6:45pm at Charis Bookstore, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304. www.chariscircle.org.

TUESDAY AUG. 6

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Survivors Support Group. 6:30 pm. 404-688-2524

ATLANTA OUTWORLDERS. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amsterdam Ave. for "Buffy" and "Dark Angel." 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

ATLANTA PLAYLAB. 6-8 pm. Free workshop for playwrights. Peachtree Library, 1315 Peachtree. 404-872-8940

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 pm. Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

FRONT RUNNERS RUN/WALK. 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

WOMEN WRITER'S GROUP. Support, critique, and encouragement for all levels of writing. 6:45 pm. at Charis Bookstore, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304. www.chariscircle.org.

WEDNESDAY AUG. 7

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Bereavement Group, 7 pm. Call 404-688-2524 for further information and directions.

FREE CONFIDENTIAL HIV TESTING. HIV testing at YouthPride. 5:30-7pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

FREE ZONE (HIV NEGATIVE MEN'S GROUP). 7-9 pm. The Center. 404-523-7500

FRONT RUNNERS. 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

PERSONS WITH AIDS (PWA) SUPPORT GROUP. 7:30-9 pm. 725 Lawrenceville Highway. 770-962-8396, ext. 28

TEEN GROUP. Teen Support Group at YouthPride (ages 13-18), 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP. Discuss Margaret Atwood's novel, "Blind Assassin." 7:15 pm at Charis Bookstore, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304. www.chariscircle.org.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP. Group for ages 18-24 at YouthPride, 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

THURSDAY AUG. 8

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 pm. Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

ATLANTA WOMEN'S RUGBY. Practice 7-9 pm. Matches on Saturdays, no experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

BOYTALK. Discussion group for GBTQ youth ages 18-24. 6:30 – 8 pm. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620.

CHINESE MERIDIAN ENERGY BALANCING. With Susan Russell, LMSW, LAC. Psychotherapist discusses emotional patterns that influence an imbalanced body. 7:30 pm at Charis Bookstore, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304. www.chariscircle.org.

CLITERATI. Grrls' spoken word open mic. 8 p.m. Tower II, Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-687-9807, Tankgrrl10@hotmail.com

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS. 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. ajones@mindspring.com

GUYTALK. 7 pm. For gay & bisexual men. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

LESBIAN AVENGERS. 7:30 pm. Weekly meeting of Atlanta chapter, open to all ages & gender identities. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-978-1262 ext. 7744, or lesbianavengers@onebox.com

LGBT BOOK GROUP. Outwrite Bookstore, 7:30 pm. 404-872-0726. rambook@aol.com.

LONG TERM SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP. 7:30-9 pm. Must pre-register. Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396, ext. 28

WOMYN'S GROUP. Ages 18-24 at YouthPride. 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

FRIDAY AUG. 9

ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND. 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 7:30 pm.. Ladies Night Swim. Water Polo/Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

GAY HOCKEY ATLANTA. 8:30 pm-10:30 pm. Play or watch. Parkaire World On Ice. www.gayhockeyatlanta.com

INTEGRITY/ATLANTA. 7 pm. Episcopal group of gays, lesbians, and transgendered persons. Meal served. All Saints' Episcopal, North Ave. at West Peachtree St. 770-642-3183

YOUNG WRTIERS READ. Readings from the High School Women Writers group and graduates. 7:30 at Charis Bookstore, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304. www.chariscircle.org.

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ASIAN PACIFIC LESBIAN BISEXUAL TRANSGENDERED NETWORK. Meets monthly.1-866-206-9069, ext. 2321 or aplbtn@onebox.com

BUTCH LESBIANS OF THE WORLD UNITE (BLOW). Atlanta Chapter and the Femme Queens. Delivers food and assistance to the needy and PWA's. Weekly meetings, volunteers needed. 404-454-4582

COMING OUT OVER THE AGE OF 30. Five week class. Atlanta Church of Religious Science, 2801 Buford Hwy., NE, Suite T-30. 770-241-2600. bbrackney@flightline.com.

DRUMSISTAHS. Women of color, all levels of experience meet for healing drum circles and performance/learning drum circles at Youth Pride. jotaylor@hotmail.com

FREE COUNSELING & HIV-ANTIBODY TESTS. Mon-Fri 9:30am-7pm. Sat 9am-1pm. Our Common Welfare. 4329 Memorial Drive, Suite H, Decatur. 404-296-3090. Also at 2416 Cascade Rd. SW every other Tues. 404-296-3090 or 404-758-2515

HIV/STD Testing. Mon-Thur, 5:30-9 pm. Anonymous HIV/AIDS testing, confidential testing for STDs; hepatitis A, B; vaccination for hepatitis A, B. The Center, sixth floor,159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-523-7500

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Christopher Seely. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance

community news

Ousted gay mayor booted from upcoming election in Pine Lake

The DeKalb Elections Board recently upheld gay former mayor **Al Fowler**'s disqualification in the Pine Lake mayoral special election. (Photo by: R.O. Youngblood).

PINE LAKE — The DeKalb Elections Board upheld former Pine Lake Mayor Al Fowler's disqualification after a July 24 special hearing, taking Georgia's only openly gay former mayor out of a special election scheduled for next month. "Another attempt by the special interest group to squelch truth and justice," Fowler said in response to the decision. "It was very obvious DeKalb County didn't want anything to do with it and it was an ambush from the get-go." Fowler was disqualified because the city charter specifically prohibits public officials who have been removed from office from running again, city officials said. Linda Latimore, director of Dekalb County's Voter Registration & Elections office, did not respond to interview requests. The strange political saga of Fowler began when he took office from ousted Pine Lake Mayor Mike Stuckey in 1999, becoming the state's first openly gay mayor. He was reelected shortly thereafter, only to be ousted in February 2002 for allegations of "malfeasance." The city scheduled an Aug. 20 special election to fill the position, and Fowler qualified to run in June, then was disqualified July 5 by letter from DeKalb elections officials. Fowler challenged the disqualification July 9, and had the disqualification suspended the same day pending the hearing. "We're absolutely going to appeal the decision," Fowler said. Fowler's removal leaves Penny Brown and Greg Zarus in the race.

JENNIFER J. SMITH

Atlanta business magazine honors lesbian 'divas'

ATLANTA — Business to Business magazine honored gay City Council President Cathy Woolard and public relations executive Cindy Abel, a lesbian, at its fifth annual "Divas Luncheon" at the Atlanta History Center July 24. The event, designed to honor "Atlanta's top women in business, education and philanthropy," forms the bulk of the magazine's "Divas" issue, according to Genevieve Bos, Business to Business publisher. The event featured women from a variety of backgrounds, including high-level corporate executives, philanthropists and community leaders. Having great business skills is only part of being a "Diva," Bos said. To be recognized, a woman must also use "your skills and talents," she said. The luncheon included an address by Jane Robelot, news anchor for WGCL-TV, a poetry reading, and a dance performance. Each honoree received a bottle of champagne and an engraved crystal platter. Abel said she was chosen as one of the recipients because her firm is one of the few that specializes in "reaching out to gay and lesbian consumers." Woolard, who in 1997 became the first openly gay person on the Atlanta City Council, has also been featured in other magazines, according to her spokesperson, Doug Hall. "Being an openly gay leader, you have more challenges than not being an openly gay leader... we appreciate what that means," Bos said.

Matt Reeg

Local teams fare well in gay volleyball tournament

ATLANTA — The Hotlanta Volleyball Classic XII Tournament, an amateur gay volleyball tournament sanctioned by the North American Gay Volleyball Association, wrapped up last Sunday with four Atlanta-area teams placing in one of the top three slots in their respective divisions. Kevin Gelé, NAGVA registrar, and member of the Atlanta Power team, said this year's tournament "was very successful." The Divine Entity and the Juicy Peaches ranked first and fourth respectively in Division A. The Atlanta Four Corners and Gridlock placed first and third in Division BB. In Division B, the Georgia Heat placed first. Among all the divisions, only AA was won by a non-Atlanta team, Washington, D.C.'s Club Acosta. First, second, and third place teams received trophies and the players received medals. Individual players could also win the title of all-star according to votes cast by referees. The all-star who garnered the most votes per division was named MVP. There were seven Atlanta-area all-stars, and Carlos Webb of the Divine Entity and Jeff Mitchell of the Heat were voted MVPs of Division A and Division B, respectively. Gelé said the hosting venues were accommodating and pleasant, notably the Armory, which hosted several receptions for the event. "I liked what they did with [the Armory]... the staff was very nice," Gelé said.

Matt Reeg

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Graphic Designers
IRMA ALLEN EXT. 17
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FAX: 404-876-2709
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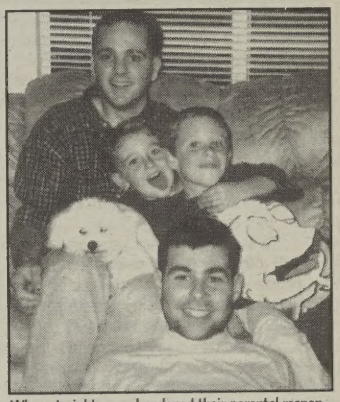
viewpoint

Stepping in when straight dads fail

If those who breed would take responsibility for their progeny, there wouldn't be any need for gays to be **Big Brothers** in the first place.



When straight men abandoned their parental responsibility, **Jim Richter** and his partner **Steve Friess** stepped in as Big Brothers to fill the void.

By STEVE FRIESS

I WALKED INTO KELLY Stidham's office for the first time in 1996 and came right out with it.

"I'm gay," I told the caseworker from Big Brothers Big Sisters. "If that's going to be a problem, let me know now and we can save everybody a lot of wasted time."

Kelly blinked twice, laughed once, told me to have a seat. "It's not a problem for us if it's not a problem for you," she shot back.

That acceptance ended up costing me and my Little Brother a lot of time. Wonderful time. Time swimming. And riding rollercoasters. And eating salty french fries. And watching movies. And telling stupid jokes. And playing catch. And talking on the phone. And washing cars. And celebrating birthdays.

Insidious, evil stuff, all of it. Or, that's what a group of gay-baiting bigots want you to believe. Focus on the Family, apparently not content with the number of homophobia-induced suicides they likely have already prompted, has launched an all-out attack on local chapters of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America for allowing homosexuals to serve as mentors to fatherless boys and motherless girls.

Mind you, most BBBS chapters have been doing this for a quarter-century. This is not news, no matter how breathlessly these alleged Christians insist that Rome just started to burn. But the national organization reaffirmed its policy recently, giving the religious right its big opportunity to butt in.

In doing so, they've trotted out the old canards about gay men having a propensity toward recruitment and child molestation, pointing to the Catholic priest pedophile scandal as proof. Funny how, with little-girl kidnappings now all the rage in the news these days, these same people haven't thrashed all straight men for their obviously uncontrollable compulsion to snatch children off their front lawns and mutilate them.

BBBS HAS ALWAYS BEEN HYPER-AWARE of the potential for a molestation case that would devastate a child and humiliate the organization. They're matching strange adults with someone else's children; caution is key.

That's why they run their mentors through a battery that includes an exhaustive personal background check. You must sit for a lengthy and probing psychological examination, permit a caseworker to determine whether your home is a suitable environment for children and put up with an intense interview in which they quiz you about everything from your sexual experience to your views on parenting and discipline. The Vatican should be taking notes.

In the end, my partner Jim and I were matched with 6-year-old boys who are now almost 12. Their mothers were told in advance that we are gay and given the option of rejecting us as matches if they wish. Considering there were 200 boys waiting for mentors, these lucky mothers were simply grateful for the offer of our time.

My Little Brother's biological father lives nearby but sees him once or twice a year. He flits in and out of this child's life capriciously, routinely disappointing him and constantly giving rise to torturous self-doubt in a boy who must wonder what he did wrong.

From me, this child sees an adult male who consistently and unfailingly loves him, is in constant contact and attends his school plays. He sees that responsible men honor their commitments, work hard to pay the bills, keep clean homes, run errands and know right from wrong with a certainty that provides him both structure and comfort.

Dare I say it, too, that as a child of divorce it has even been good for him to observe my healthy adult marriage.

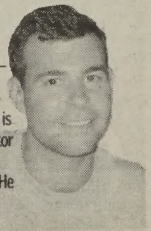
I'VE NEVER HAD A CONVERSATION about being gay with my Little Brother. His mother and grandmother must have explained it to him, or perhaps he came to understand it because he spent lots of time with Jim and Jim's Little Brother. I do remember my Little Brother once remarking that he's lucky because he got two Big Brothers.

But the Focus on the Family folks aren't really scared that I'll molest my Little Brother. They don't even know us, and they'd likely refuse to spend an afternoon with us even if we offered them the chance.

No, what they fear is that we'll show, by example, that gays are normal, caring, contributing members of the community who live in stable relationships and fulfill their civic and personal duties. They're afraid these children will grow up tolerant or, in the sneering parlance of bigotry, that they will "come to believe that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle."

What they miss is that Jim and I don't need to "advocate" for acceptance; our behavior earns it.

They also miss the glaring truth that straight men, not gays, cause far more destruction and instability in our culture. If those who breed would take responsibility for their progeny, there wouldn't be any need for Big Brothers in the first place.



@ Nevada-based freelancer **Steve Friess** is a frequent contributor to USA Today, the Christian Science Monitor and Wired. He can be reached through www.SteveFriess.com.

letters

Missing the point of Pride

To the Editor:

I've read for the past few weeks a lot of comments about Atlanta Pride. I think some of us miss the point.

I remember way back when Pride consisted of 20,000 people on a good year, and we met with harassment and ridicule at every turn. We all dreamed of the day when we could come and go as we pleased and throw an outdoor gay event without having to worry about how people would react.

That day has come, yet some of us are still bitching. Yes, Pride has become a bit rowdy, although this year was tame compared to some past years, but people celebrate for different reasons.

The young kids I've met didn't deal with what we had to deal with, but that's what progress is all about. I can't stand the old queens who sit around in their tent telling me, "Well in my day we had to walk 20 miles in the snow to get to the nearest queer bar." Chill out.

We are lucky in Atlanta to have such an open atmosphere and accepting population. I said accepting, not tolerating. Everyone of us has a different story and some people live in a world where it's simply hard to be themselves. Atlanta Pride gives people a chance come and be among others of like kind.

We need to accept ourselves, good, bad and ugly and focus on the next step and appreciate for a moment the (no pun intended) the fruits of our labor.

We've lost a lot over the years, but we've gained a lot too. Enjoy Pride for what it is, make it what you want it to be. Just tell the boy next to you to put his pants back on.

JOHN WILLIAMS
Atlanta

Gay relationships do last if each partner is valued

To the Editor:

In Michael Alvear's July 12 ("When does a date become a boyfriend?"), which ended with the question: "Are gay relationships destined to fail?" And the answer: "Probly"

I don't know why Alvear has such a pessimistic view of love between men. Maybe because it hasn't worked out for him. Unfortunately his viewpoint supports straight assertions that "gay relationships never work." He supports prejudice by agreeing.

My partner and I have been together for 29 years. We know a couple who has been together 45 years. Lots of our friends have long-term relationships. It's not uncommon for men to form long-lasting pair bonds. Gay relationships are not destined to fail.

We dated for five years, not seven months, rather exclusively before we moved in together. We were two independent people relating. Moving in together before you get to really know each other, becoming co-dependent, is a common mistake in gay and straight relationships. Gay men joke about lesbians bringing along a U-Haul on the first date, but gay men do the same thing. If it's good sex, they think they have a good relationship. Wrong.

We value each other's companionship and are the best of friends. We are committed to our relationship more than we are committed to selfish autonomy, because we realize that our relationship is far more than the sum of both of us.

We aren't boyfriends; we are partners in life. We grow spiritually and emotionally together. We help each other mature. And we still have good sex after all those years.

Other columnists have also written about their lack of success in their love lives. Based on what I've seen in friends who go from one relationship to another, it's not bad luck, or fate, or poor choices. It comes from a lack of valuing the other.

And if we value ourselves, we value others, too. I know that if I lost my partner, I would be able to find another long-term partner, no doubt about it. It's because of a positive attitude, not a destiny to fail.

TOM KOWALSKI
Atlanta

TROUBLE IN JESSE HELMS-LAND...
HE'S THE FOURTH ONE THIS MORNING TO FALL FACE-FIRST INTO HIS GRITS!
The Fayetteville Observer
CIVIL UNION
HONEY

Gender, not being gay, is basis of discrimination

To the Editor:

Only one person in the United States has been fired in recent years for what they actually did in the privacy of their own bedroom.

When gay men or lesbians are fired or evicted for "being gay," it is because of what other people think they do in the privacy of their bedrooms. It is their daily behaviors that set off other people's "gaydar" that gets GLBTQ people into trouble. It is their daily and innate gender variant behaviors that get GLBTQ people into trouble, not their bedroom activity.

The one person who was fired? Peter Oiler, fired from Winn Dixie for cross-dressing in the privacy of his own bedroom.

Wake Up, Human Rights Campaign. You are fighting the wrong battle! The *Employment* Non-Discrimination Act is a bad joke and totally useless to the real problems in the real world.

It's time for HRC to come into the 21st century, and do the hard work the transgender community has been doing, and winning.

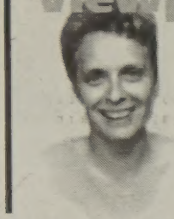
DAINNA CICOTELLO
Aurora, Colo.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of ETHAN GREEN

by Eric Orner

Local Color
Hey Queelix, This coffee smells kinda weird... Fishy...
Naturally. It's mostly water.
Yeah? So? So What?
All of our water comes from the canals---which are teeming with aquatic life.
Aquatic life? In the Frappuccino? BUHLECHHH
Can't you, I dunno, filter it or something? I mean, that's what we do on earth.
Oh Really? We've been under impression that Y'all do nothing but dump carcinogens and old tires in your bodies of water...
and What's this green froth?
Algae.
Anyway, Canal fish are loaded with protein. Thats why martian water is so healthful. That cup of coffee is Good for you!
Yeh, ok, but it's still pretty stinky...
Oh for Carve sakes!
Listen: I've been thinking. Ordinarily the the way you space-time travel to get here is by fantasizing about a hot Martian, right? Namely, me.
Right. a hot, conceited, martian.
OK, but you don't think the process works in reverse--you don't think you can travel back to earth by fantasizing about guy there?
RIGHT. I'm from there. So that's not fantasy, it's REALITY.
Ha! That's the flaw in your logic.
OK...So, You gonna tell me, or just sit there looking smug.
Brad Pitt, Oscar DeLaHoya, your favorite porn stars, ALL EARTHLINGS! And still you fantasize about them all the time.
I think you're stuck here because
(a) You're scared of falling in love with this new guy --whatsit-- or his same sex partner, and
(b) You don't want to screw up whatever potential you might have for a successful relationship with him by thinking horney thoughts about some other dude.
Consequently, there you sit.
MAROONED ON MARS.
So what do I do about it?
SIMPLE! Fantasize about something on Earth OTHER THAN SEX.

viewpoint PAULA MARTINAC



Now that it turns out women have been put at risk with **hormone therapy**, maybe the medical establishment will pay attention to us.

Maybe now they'll listen to lesbians

WITH THE ALARMING REVELATION that hormone replacement therapy actually increases women's risk for heart disease, stroke and breast cancer, the country may finally be waking up to something lesbian and feminist health activists first talked about 30 years ago — that menopause, like pregnancy, isn't a disease to be "treated."

The danger of HRT is as big a scandal as Enron or pedophile priests, representing a massive breach of public trust. Millions of women have taken synthetic estrogen to relieve the annoying indications of menopause, like hot flashes, loss of sex drive, mood swings, and insomnia, and also to guard against heart disease and osteoporosis. Doctors have even prescribed hormones to perimenopausal women — those in their 40s, just prior to menopause — to deal with pesky problems like irregular periods.

Without a doubt, straight women have been the primary market for this therapy, which amounts to yet another sexist ploy — like Botox or cosmetic surgery — to convince women that they must halt the aging process. Now many of the women who used HRT face life-threatening health issues that could make feeling sweaty, cranky, tired, and not in the mood look pretty good by comparison.

On the hopeful side, the HRT crisis may help bring the terrible era of overmedicating women to a well-deserved close. In just a few weeks, there's been an explosion of media focus on alternative ways to navigate the trying time that my mother's generation referred to — in hushed voices, of course — as "The Change." And when Katie Couric starts weighing the merits of herbs like black cohosh and valerian for coping with menopause, a lot of women will be listening.

WHAT'S NOT BEING SAID IN THE MEDIA, though, is that much of the information about alternative therapies isn't new. During the heyday of the women's health movement in the late 1960s and early '70s, feminists critical of the male-dominated medical establishment began learning about their bodies and sharing this knowledge with other women through clinics, workshops, and books like "Our Bodies, Ourselves." In particular, they sought out natural therapies and preventative medicines from Asian and Native American cultures.

Not surprisingly, a lot of the health-care activists who spearheaded this movement were lesbians. Among them was Joan Waitkevicz, an M.D. in New York who often had two choices of remedies to prescribe: a conventional pharmaceutical one and an herbal one. If you chose the herbs, there was a well-stocked, lesbian-run apothecary shop in the neighborhood. Many of these lesbian health-care workers brought their valuable knowledge of self-help and natural remedies with them when they volunteered during the AIDS epidemic.

Although it's not what it once was, the feminist health movement is still going strong in some areas, including cyberspace. The pioneering Feminist Women's Health Center in Washington state now has branch clinics as far away as New Hampshire and Georgia. Its Web site (www.fwhc.org) correctly addresses menopause as a wellness issue, not an illness.

THAT MAY BE BECAUSE OUR COMMUNITY, just like mainstream America, often glosses over the health concerns of women over 40, until they become manifested in a disease like breast cancer. When was the last time, for example, that you read about women's bone health in the lesbian and gay press?

The concerns of younger lesbians, like pregnancy issues and safer sex, make better copy — that is, when they're dealt with at all. We've also virtually erased the enormous contributions lesbians made to managing our community's wellness. Nowadays it's more popular to diss '70s lesbians for going off the politically correct deep end than it is to praise their groundbreaking work in the area of self-help.

What the HRT crisis clearly demonstrates is that health care for middle-aged women is in a sorry state. Ideally, our community would use this information to set up workshops specifically for 40-plus lesbians, implementing the lessons of the feminist health movement. That, of course, means acknowledging that maybe all those granola- and tofu-loving lesbians weren't so crazy after all.

Paula Martinac is an author and syndicated writer and can be reached at Lncolumn@aol.com.

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viewpoint J.D. CERNA

It's amazing the things you learn about your dad when you **tell him you're gay**. But what do you get him for his birthday?

Coming out to dad and vice versa

IT'S MY DAD'S BIRTHDAY TOMORROW. I'm not sure what age he'll be turning. OK, let me figure this out. He was born in '36, right? Sixty-something. 66? Do they have cards that say "Now You're 66!"?

My dad is *sixty*-six? I thought he was *thirty*-six. Oh wait a second. *I'm* 36.

I gotta shop for my dad, get him a gift. Who is my dad? I ask myself who he is to know what to get him. What does he yearn for? I know he likes World War II and golf. Should I get him a golf calendar or D-Day coasters?

What my father really needs is a good labeling system for his videos. After my dad records something, he takes a "Post-It" and "posts" it to the video. Then he writes, in pencil, whatever he has just recorded (like "The Practice"). One of my dad's tapes had "Casablanca" written on its "Post-It." Right in the middle of "Casablanca," where Bogart's telling Bergman they'll always have Paris, it cuts to the "The Practice." Good one, Dad.

Guess you can't judge my dad's videotapes by their labels. Or my dad, as it turns out.

I CAME OUT TO MY DAD JUST LAST year. We were on a highway in Miami. I asked him to pull over because my coming-out water had broken, I was about to deliver.

We parked on a dock. There was this stork (flamingo? pelican?) stomping around without a purpose. Fishermen, too. I told my dad, "I have some things I want to talk about. First of all, I'm gay." The word "gay" came out of my mouth like a creature from a swamp. "Gaaaayyy."

My father's response: "I have known this, John. I am concerned for your health, of course. We both are. We worry sometimes: Will you be alone?"

Gee, Dad. I had had these thoughts, too.

And then my dad plowed right in with all this unsolicited info. Like:

• He had had this "gay pal" at his old law firm. They got high together once with some people at the firm dinner. *What?* All these years I'm strugglin' with whether to tell him I'm gay, he's gettin' high with a homo at the firm dinner!

• He used to cut class when he was a kid to go see the Yankees at Dodger Stadium.

• He never really wanted to be an attorney. He had always, with all his heart, wanted to fly in the Air Force. But then he fell in love with my mom, and everything changed. I thought that was romantic.

I told my dad I remember when they lived in Brooklyn Heights before they retired to Miami. Their apartment had this wrap-around terrace with a view of Manhattan that a filmmaker would go nuts for.

My cousin was "terracing" with us one Sunday and nonchalantly remarked, "It's the gay march going on today." My father cleared his throat and harrumphed something about "marching around for unnatural behavior," as my mom served him sangria.

"Do you remember when you said that, Dad?" I asked him as the stork on the dock squawked and shat. He said he couldn't remember saying that, but that he probably had.

THE SUN WAS SETTING AND THE FISHERmen were gone by the time my dad told me his father was a monster. Drank like a demon. I had known this, but to hear it from my father's mouth was the difference between seeing the Yankees on TV and seeing the Yankees from the bleachers. My father's look of pain as he talked about his dad's daily insane, irrational behavior was enough to let me know:

My father had had it tough growing up.

No wonder he had wanted, at one time, to be a doorman. To be alone and peaceful. Just to be there for folks, without having to say much. I told him I had worked as a doorman at the Royalton in New York. "It sucked, Dad. I would have rather been an attorney."

It's amazing the things you learn about your dad when you tell him you're gay.

As far as his gift goes, I'll just let this column be the gift. Happy Birthday, Dad. We'll always have Miami.

J.D. Cerna is a native New Yorker living in Washington, where he is a writer for a broadcast network and moonlights as a playwright. He can be reached through this publication.

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on the record

"It sure doesn't sound like he's growing old all that gracefully."

*A spokesperson for **Madonna**, responding to a published quote by **Boy George** criticizing her for allegedly taking Botox injections and insisting that he prefers to "grow old gracefully" (Salon.com)*

"The prettier-than-ever cast revealed nothing but skin, coming off more calculated and remote than any cast in memory. Seven strangers in the beginning, seven strangers in the end."

TV Guide, panning the final episode of "The Real World: Chicago," which featured two gay cast members and was the highest rated episode of the highest rated season yet for the MTV reality show (TV Guide, July 27)

"Other research confirms what therapists have known for decades: Homosexuals are made, not born. And they are frequently 'made' by older men who molest them as youngsters."

Rev. Louis P. Sheldon, chair of the Traditional Values Coalition, on a new Web site designed to debunk "Homosexual Urban Legends," including that gays are "born not made"

"I'm now the representative who just happens to be gay, not just the gay representative."

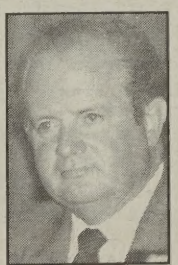
*Ga. State Rep. **Karla Drenner**, the first openly gay elected official in a Southern state legislature (CNN, July 24)*

"I've really noticed a resurgence of 'gay' by skateboardy kids. Not gay like homosexual. It meant kind of farty, kind of odd."

Gay gossip columnist Michelangelo Signorile, on the changing meaning of the word "gay" (New York Magazine, July 22)

"These people in the Castro want me and my kind exterminated like roaches. Because that's what we are to them — ugly, soulless creatures that make a mess of their little gay utopia."

Cowan Conaghan, 25, a gay homeless man criticizing hostility toward the homeless in San Francisco's gay Castro district (San Francisco Examiner, July 24)



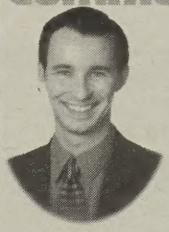
"They pulled the Olympics out and it turned out to be the best thing in the world for Cobb County. ... People still stayed in all of our hotels, still ate in all of our restaurants, still played in all of our recreational facilities. They didn't give a rat's ass whether the Olympic torch came through Cobb County or not."

*Cobb County, Ga., Commission Chair **Bill Byrne**, now a candidate for governor, on the anti-gay resolution that resulted in the relocation of the Atlanta Olympic volleyball venue and torch relay in 1996; Byrne's daughter Sharon came out during the ensuing protests (Associated Press, July 24)*

"I had sex with men in the past. I was tested and am clean. I gave blood."

An anonymous e-mail sent to a number of Canadian blood donor agencies, who have been unable to trace the sender or confirm its legitimacy (Canadian Press, July 29)

commercial closet MICHAEL WILKE



An international gay rugby tourney named for a gay **Sept. 11 hero** wins support from Nike and Guinness.

Major league gay rugby backers

THE POPULAR SPECULATION ABOUT New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza's sexual orientation notwithstanding, gay athletes usually get little corporate attention, but a little-known gay rugby event has scored sponsorships from several major league brands, including Nike, Guinness, Calistoga water and energy drink Red Bull.

America's worst attack in history brought considerable media attention to gay rugby player Mark Bingham, considered one of the heroes who prevented United Flight 93, the fourth plane, from reaching a target in Washington. Bingham is now honored as the namesake for a growing international gay rugby tournament, the Mark Kendall Bingham Cup Invitational Rugby Tournament & Festival, held in San Francisco last June.

Bingham played with the San Francisco Fog in association with 10 other gay rugby teams in the U.S., England, New Zealand and Argentina. While the gay teams rarely play each other, their usual opponents domestically are other regional rugby teams.

Rugby is hardly considered a major sport in the U.S., and yet the event's organizers managed to win sponsorships this year from two brands without a presence in the gay market, Nike and Guinness — the latter a sponsor of the 1999 Rugby World Cup.

"Both have made it possible to hold the event" through donation of some cash and product, says Chris Zerlot, director of the Bingham Cup who helped land the sponsors.

"Right after the attack, there was so much exposure that I was protective of Mark and his name" when it was suggested the tournament should be named for him, says Zerlot. "In the end, I realized that it's a fitting tribute."

AS A SORT OF COSMIC TRADEOFF, the tragedy of Bingham's story is helping develop a sport he loved. Interest in gay rugby has grown dramatically from the media's attention on Bingham, who dreamed of starting a team in New York. Since then, one has not only sprouted in the Big Apple but also in Seattle and L.A.

"There was an explosion of rugby after Sept. 11," notes Zerolot, who also acknowledges that the event helped with sponsorships. "It definitely got our foot in the door. Working with big companies like that ain't easy."

The sponsorships are surprising wins. Nike has previously advertised its mainstream print ads in Out magazine, but not since 1997, while Guinness has never been involved in the gay market. In fact, in 1992 Guinness decided not to air a commercial in England that its ad agency created featuring a male couple after the tabloid press caused a furor by reporting the plan. Calistoga and Red Bull have also not been advertised in the gay market previously.

An international gay rugby tournament named after Sept. 11 hero **Mark Bingham** has garnered the attention of major national brands, some of which have little or no previous presence in the gay market.

Yet involvement in the Bingham Cup does not indicate greater interest among gays by the brands.

"We don't specifically target the demographic," notes Scott Reames, a Nike spokesman. "We're focused more on sport-specific media and away from general media" because it reaches their audience more efficiently.

Says Alicia Shiel, market development manager for Guinness in San Francisco's office, "It's a sport, regardless of it being gay or not. It's a great fit for San Francisco and the U.S. and it's a wonderful cause."

Still, recognition of gay sports fans is growing slowly. The 25-year-old gay softball league North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance claims Galiano, Miller Lite, Smirnoff and United Airlines among its sponsors for the August 2002 Gay Softball World Series.

Coors Light has a two-year sponsorship of gay hockey team Colorado Climax and Powerbar has had a presence at the Gay World Series for softball. Meanwhile some major sports franchises have advertised in gay media or venues.

Michael Wilke has written extensively on advertising and marketing to gay consumers, and can be reached through **www.commercialcloset.org.**

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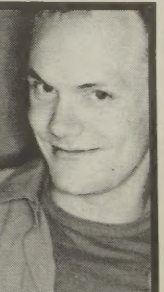

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Events at the annual Hotlanta River Expo include (from left) the Miss Hotlanta and Mr. Hotlanta contests and late night dancing. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

Circuit forebearer

Hotlanta hits town for 24th year, offers plenty of 'fun, sun and games'

By MIKE FLEMING

ATLANTA SUMMERS GET EVEN HOTTER when the biggest local ticket on the gay party circuit hits town every August. The annual four-day Hotlanta River Expo draws 4,000 to 5,000 revelers to make the most of Atlanta's summer heat.

In 1978 — when "circuit party" wasn't a term and before the yearlong series of events became a gay culture mainstay — Hotlanta organizers set their sites on the Chattahoochee River for rafting over the waves and a chance to be among friends. Soon after, the event became a non-profit benefactor to local AIDS charities with a packed schedule of events.

"We want to continue the tradition that started with a rafting trip of just a few guys, and turned into a great time to help various AIDS causes in Atlanta," said Todd Sharley, a spokesperson for the event.

Outdoor water events will keep Hotlanta visitors cool. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Hotlanta 2002 takes place next weekend with new sponsors and venues, but without its signature trek down the Chattahoochee. That is thanks to the river's own bad publicity over contamination concerns that shuttered the site's largest raft-renting business in January.

Some 400 to 600 of the thousands of Hotlanta attendees were expected to float down the river, a crowd the smaller raft companies just couldn't handle, Sharley says.

"We hate disappointing people, but we hope to offer the old river event next year," Sharley says. "This year, we hope people who especially like the river will bear with us and enjoy what we will be doing, which will be a little different."

Hotlanta members volunteer their time throughout the year at AID Atlanta. The annual parties feature drug-free prevention messages, and AID Atlanta will provide safer sex information stations and condom packets for attendees, according to Chris Parsons, a spokesperson for the agency.

"We are heavily participating with them, and proceeds from a dunking booth will go directly to us," Parsons says. "They have been very supportive of us, and we will continue to be supportive of them."

But the charity portion of this year's event may have as much trouble as the rafting event. The downturn of the economy could mean that event expenses fall short of donations for beneficiaries, and Hotlanta

Please see **HOTLANTA** on **Page 43**

DOLLY TIPS HAT TO GAY FANS, **Page 31**

GRRRLS READY FOR MICHIGAN WOMYN'S FEST, **Page 37**

appts.

SATURDAY AUG. 3

Claire and Bairn's Maple Yum-Yum play their very last show tonight in Athens at The Healing Arts Center, 834 Prince Ave. The gay-friendly duo that performed at Atlanta Pride 2002 splits to pursue individual musical projects. Bairn's new CD, expected in September, is called 'TuTuPi,' and Claire's project in the works is entitled 'A Golden Summer.' Mapleyumyum@aol.com

THROUGH AUG. 25

Cabaret artist extraordinaire Robert Ray joins Emmy winner Joseph Litsch every Thursday, Friday and Saturday in August to present **'Johnny Mercer: Too Marvelous for Words'** at Libby's Cabaret, 3401 Northside Parkway. Mercer is an academy-award winning lyric writer who wrote the music for 'The Days of Wine and Roses,' 'Moon River' and 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil.' 404-237-1943

THURSDAY AUG. 8

Gospel singer **Tammy Sue Bakker**, daughter of legendary televangelists Tammy Faye and Reverend Jim, performs tonight at P.A.L.S. Bingo. The theme, appropriately enough, is 'Gospel Bingo,' with prizes ranging from $100 to $500. Doors open at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center on 418 Armour Drive at 6:30 p.m., Bakker sings at 7:15 p.m., and bingo begins at 7:40 p.m. www.palsatlanta.org

AUG. 8-11

The 24th year of the **Hotlanta River Expo** might not be headed down the river this year, but it is brimming with pageants and parties. The first event of the studly weekend is Thursday's 'Bad Girls: Clash of the Disco Divas,' a.k.a. 'Miss Hotlanta International' at the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel Ballroom at 7 p.m. The Mr. Hotlanta Contest at club Eleven50 showcases beefcake on Friday night at 7 p.m. For more details, www.hotlanta.org and 404-892-6000

THURSDAY AUG. 8

Abbetuck productions brings multi-faceted performer **Randall White** to Atlanta to act out his non-stop one-man show in which he portrays 11 different characters using only chairs as props. White wrote, produced, and directed the play being staged at 14th Street Playhouse for the next two weekends. www.normaltheplay.com or 1-877-946-9997

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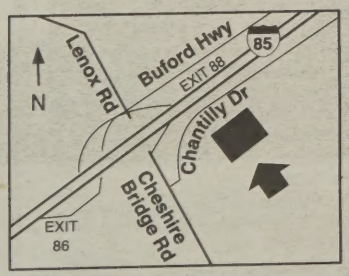

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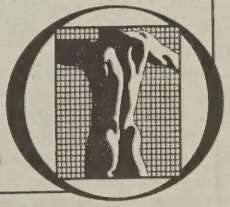

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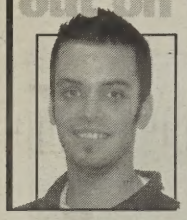


Legendary country singer wows audience, acknowledges **gay fan base** during recent Atlanta stop.

When the one and only Dolly Parton took the Atlanta stage last week, she acknowledged her gay fans but said she didn't know the depth of her fan base. (Photo by Matt Burkhalter)

Dolly or bust

IT WAS A DARK AND MUGGY ATLANTA morning. The blinking marquis outside Earthlink Live read 4 a.m. when a small group started forming on West Peachtree Street. Dolly Parton, scheduled to perform in 16 hours, was already drawing fans.

Most thoughts of "Dolly Groupies" conjures images of people from outside the Perimeter, more "down-home" people. But at closer glance, this small group gathering in midtown Atlanta looked more like a Cher concert. There were more midtown flips and tight-fitting sleeveless muscle shirts: there were more gays than anything else.

Dolly Parton has reinvented her public image many times through several decades. Her recent stop here has proven that she has the power as a performer and strength as a woman to attract gay men like southerners to grits.

"Gay guys love her because she's a typical Diva — no, no she's not your typical diva," said John Rogers, an Atlanta fan. "She did it on her own, she has power, and that with her femininity has brought her a long way.

"I grew up with her. Her music was there through all the hardships in my life. I know why I like her — she's a strong woman," Rogers said.

DURING HER SHOW, PARTON WASN'T all 'straight talk,' making reference to all the "pretty boys" who, one after the other, kept filing in the door past her tour bus. She told the crowd that she knew she had a gay following, just not that it was as big as this.

"I heard she put this show on mainly for her gay fans," said John Turpin, another gay Atlanta fan. "Her gay fan base demanded it and she met that demand."

Parton entered from stage left to screams of delight from the crowd. Her blonde locks were up, down, and all around perfect. Her skin-tight shiny blue outfit fiercely showed off the curves she is so well known for, her killer 6-inch heels added to her larger-than-life but physically small stature and the music was simply Dolly.

NOTHING THAT PRETTY COULD BE real? Parton herself took up that issue.

"It's a good thing I'm a real woman, because if I wasn't I'd have to be a big ol' drag queen," she said.

She then broke into an altered version of "Jolene," substituting "Drag-queen" for "Jolene."

"Well, with hair like that, and those udders ... hello!" exclaimed Steve Lantz of Atlanta. "She has such a positive attitude ... and she can sing!"

And sing she did. She sang through cheers and tears. Pausing after becoming emotional during "Little Sparrow," she asked the concert goers to please pause with her.

She seemed to share a piece of herself with each person in the room, taking the time to personalize the show. When a little girl yelled, "I love you Dolly!" Parton stopped what she was doing to find the little girl and say back, "To the little girl that just yelled I love you, well, I love you too!"

"What's not to like about Dolly? She's been around for a long time! I LOVED the 80's Dolly, the whole "9 to 5" era!" said Tammy Bouchelle of North Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Of everything said of Parton, there was no negative. There were no accusations of prima donna-ness or Madonna-ness, nor were there jabs at her sincerity. Simply acclamations of praise.

"Dolly is a great entertainer!"

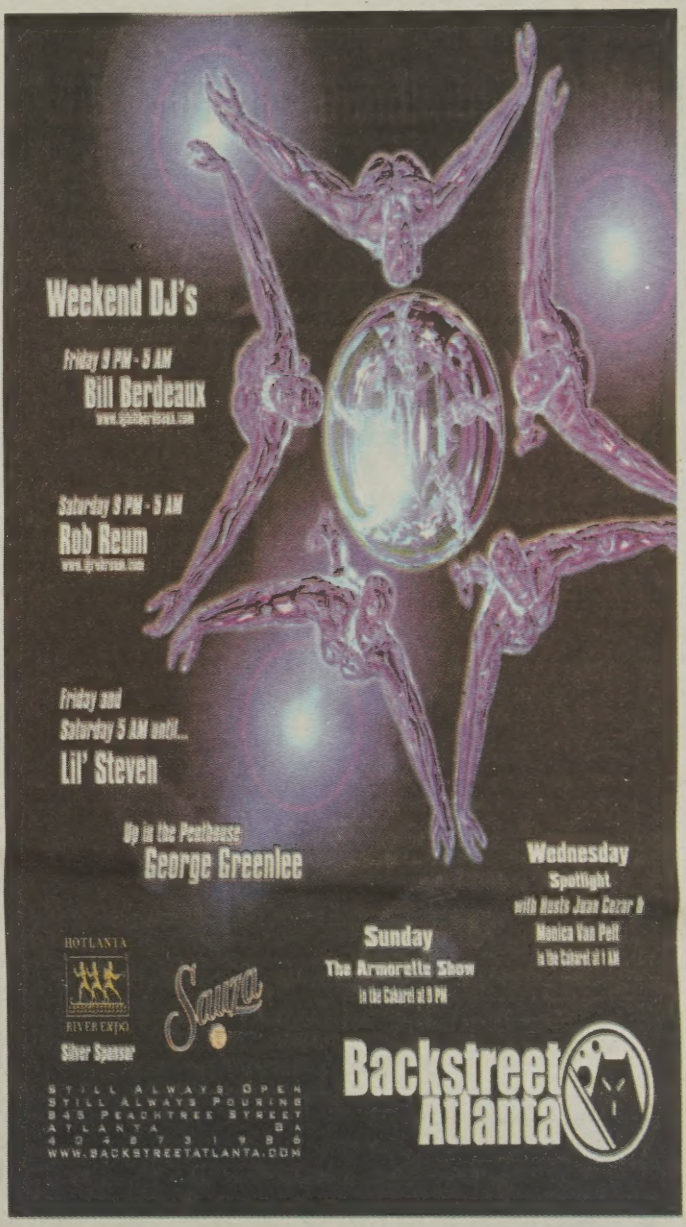
"She's a complete musician."

"I wish there had been more!"

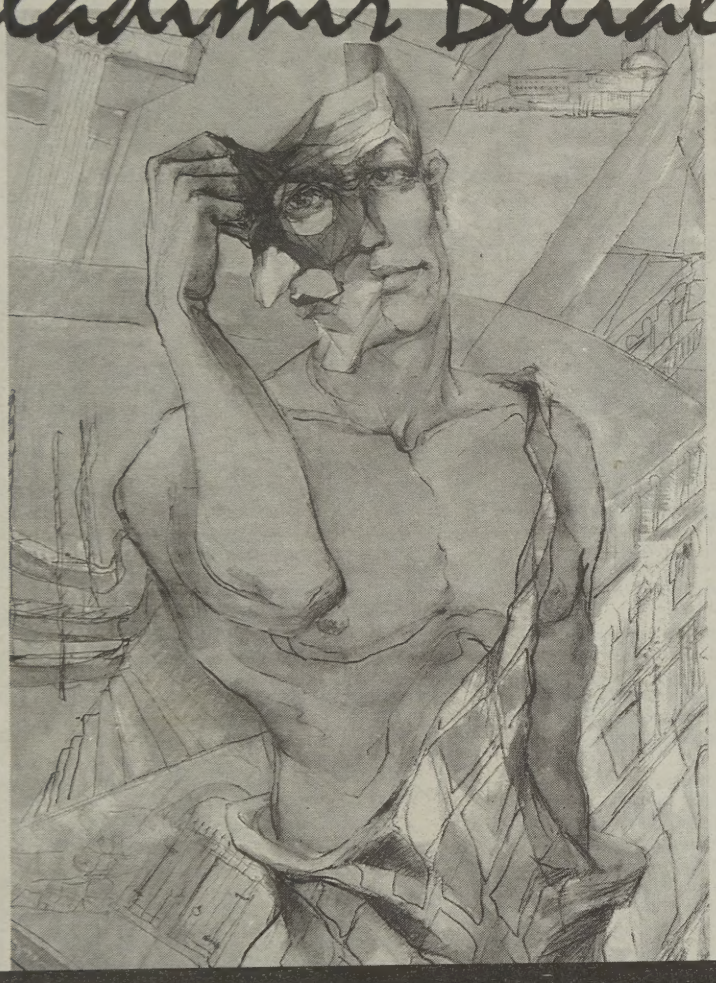
"We love her!"

For more than 30, years Parton has been seemingly working "9 to 5" to build the empire she has at her fingers: Dollywood, over 70 hit songs, a household name, and an acting career.

The atypical diva left without an encore: the crowd's only complaint. With a wave of blonde and a click of her spike heels she was on the road again.



Vladimir Beliaev



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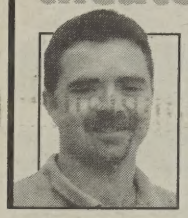

Gay artistic director brings 30-year-old company to Decatur, vows **continuation of gay shows.**

New home for old friends

WHEN HE WAS HIRED AS NEW EXECUTIVE and artistic director of Onstage Atlanta last year, gay theater veteran Scott Rousseau made a bold promise: to find the company a new and permanent home. A year, later, Onstage has just opened a spacious new locale in Decatur.

Onstage is now situated in Suburban Plaza, the home of an old Belk's. The space is almost 16,000 square feet, according to Rousseau, and can accommodate an audience of 150.

The theater company has long been known for its eclectic, often gay work. One of the early gay shows was the dark drama "Bent." A real coming-of-age, however, said the new artistic director, was the success of the campy musical "Whoop Dee Doo!," which Rousseau directed. That show inspired a sequel, "When Pigs Fly," staged a few summers ago.

But during its 30-year-stint in Atlanta, Onstage has had its share of troubles, particularly of late. It lost its home on Courtland Street in 1997 and had to use the 14th Street Playhouse for a while. Only able to mount four shows per season, the company found it hard to break even. Administrative changes took place as Onstage looked for new leadership and a home. Rousseau is optimistic, though, that with a firm staff in place, and with the momentum of the new location, the tide has started to turn in the company's favor.

WHEN THE NEW SPACE OFFICIALLY opened July 19, Onstage debuted with "Blue Plate Special: Della's Diner IV," and is hosting a world premiere next week, Stephen Pierce's "When the Devils Be Callin." That play, which won Onstage's Hometown Playwright Series, is a ghost story about two slaves and their struggles on a farming plantation in White Plains, Georgia, during the 1800s.

Rousseau says that "Devils" is for mature audiences.

"The language is racially sensitive, with strong language and references to what slaves were called back then," he said.

The play also contains voodoo rituals, murder, and sex.

"It's a veritable soap opera," Rousseau said.

The 2002-2003 season will include seven mainstage shows, concerts featuring music from Broadway musicals, and Onstage's Abracadabra Children's theater. Among the upcoming productions are "Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show," "Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical," and Alan Ball's "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress."

To that end, the company established June as a time for a "campy, summer musical." "Ruthless" filled that spot recently, and next year Rousseau will return his "Whoop Dee Doo!"

"Gay audiences have long supported Onstage, and we want to continue to support and show our appreciation in return," Rousseau said.

The cast of 'Blue Plate Special: Della's Diner IV' recently debuted the new home space of Onstage Atlanta, led by gay artistic director Scott Rousseau.

LONG A STAPLE IN ATLANTA' ARTS community, Rousseau has been around for more than 25 years. The director of some 60 shows, he had worked with Onstage several times before taking over the reins in 2001.

Ironically, the new Onstage is located a few miles from Neighborhood Playhouse, where Rousseau once served as marketing director. But the artistic director doesn't see having the two theaters so close together as a problem.

"We are very different," he said. "I think Neighborhood is more interested in family-oriented shows. Our shows are more adult."

This is the slow season for theaters, as many shows are winding down and other biggies ("Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk" at the Alliance, "Dirty Blond" at Theatre in the Square) are in rehearsals. One of the best bets might be the acclaimed revival of Broadway's "42nd Street," tapping its way into Atlanta next week.

MORE INFO

'When the Devil's Be Callin'
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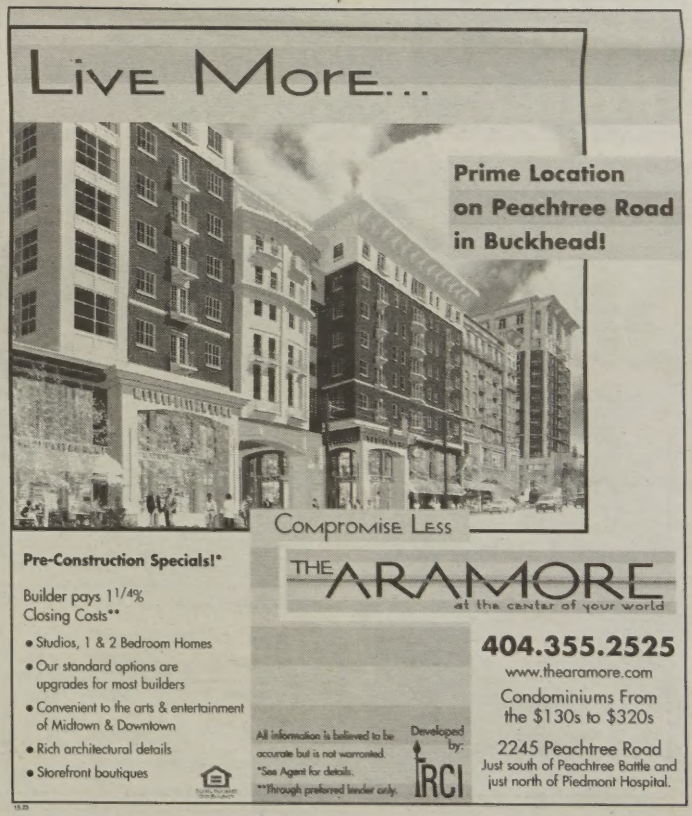
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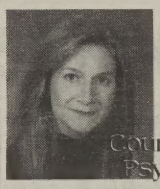

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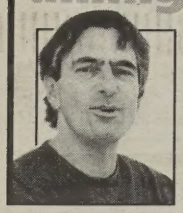

Nationally-operated Mexican joints sacrifice taste on restaurant row known for **fast, cheap, good food.**

Ponce goes corporate

THE FUNKY STRETCH OF PONCE DE Leon Avenue between Midtown and the Highlands has incubated several decent, cheap restaurants like Eats, Tortillas, Java Jive and Marco's Pita.

Now the strip has two new entries in the Mexican fast-food category, Moe's Southwest Grill and Qdoba Mexican Grill. Both are outposts of national operations with other locations in Atlanta.

I suppose, given their efficiency and low prices, both places are acceptable. But Qdoba beats Moe's on several points. And if you want really good Mexican food that's hardly more expensive, there are alternatives.

Physically, Moe's is a nice enough place, with plenty of space between the tables and unusually comfortable chairs for this kind of a joint.

I was put off in a big way by the ridiculous names on the menu. The only possible excuse for giving restaurant dishes silly names is if there's some actual pun or connection. But why name a taco with beans, cheese, lettuce, salsa, and a choice of meat "The Full Monty," while the very same thing plus sour cream and guacamole is "The Other Lewinsky?"

It could be that this obfuscating nomenclature is meant to disguise the fact that every single thing on Moe's menu is composed of the same very few ingredients, with one or another added or subtracted.

Well, you can fool some of the people some of the time.

THE ITEMS I TRIED — IT'S POINTLESS to specify which version of the standard elements they contained — were good enough, with one glaring exception: the salsa. The one thing that can rescue run-of-the-mill Mexican fast food is a decent salsa, which Moe's version is not.

The salsa consisted of a too-big dice of onion, crunchily unripe tomato and way too little cilantro, all in a colorless watery base. More or less tasteless, the stuff was impossible to even scoop with a chip.

Qdoba doesn't play the same games with labels and offers a much wider selection than Moe's, including choices like taco salads; a chicken burrito with a "pesto" of roasted poblano chilis, cilantro, and ground almonds and pine nuts; and five other interesting salsas.

Still, my "fajita classica" burrito with steak was boring. The onions and peppers were undercooked, and the roasted chili corn salsa I chose didn't do much to jazz it up.

Guacamole was also plain-jane, consisting of avocado, an odd bit of tasteless leaf that just might have been cilantro but was too sparse to release any flavor, and maybe a squirt of lemon.

Here's my advice when you find yourself on Ponce with a taste for Mexican-inspired food. Keep driving east into downtown Decatur, where a second location of the sensation Taqueria del Sol is now up and running. Or wait a couple of months, when there will be a branch of seriously authentic Nuevo Laredo Cantina on Highland Avenue in Inman Park.

New blood

THE RESTAURANT PORTION OF THE gay-owned and gay-popular Red Chair at Amsterdam Walk recently hired new chef Jay Tanner to add zip to the menu and ramp up the Southern dining experience there.

Tanner hits town from Tuscola, Fla., where he was chef at the popular spot Jubilee. His handiwork includes improvements on Red Chair mainstays as well as new menu items like wild mushroom ravioli in reduced apple glaze with cilantro and corn salsa, which is garnering raves at the already successful eatery, according to Brad Williams, Red Chair's owner.

With the addition of Tanner, the restaurant recently dropped its lunch hours to just Fridays and Saturdays and added their wildly popular Sunday brunch, featuring an omelet bar and a buffet of other fresh goodies that drew such a crowd one recent Sunday that management had to turn people away.

MIKE FLEMING

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Qdoba MEXICAN GRILL
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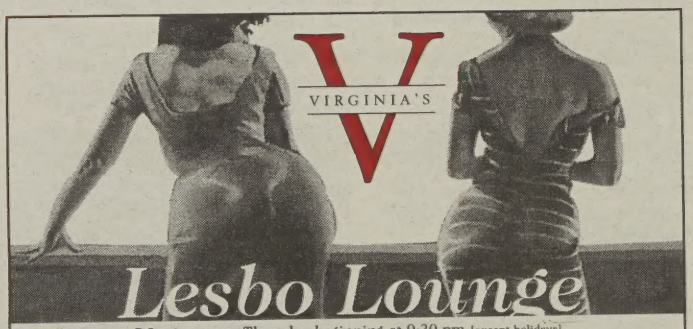

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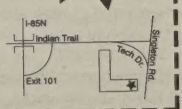

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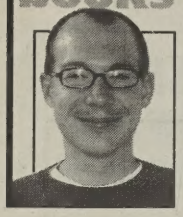


Novelist E. Lynn Harris stops in Atlanta to present latest offering filled with studly characters.

Bling bling for the masses

FANS OF E. LYNN HARRIS REJOICE: the wildly popular author's latest work "A Love of My Own" hits bookstores and beach bags this week, likely cementing the writer's king of the summer novel status just as he rolls into Atlanta to sign the book next week.

The book follows recurring Harris character Raymond Tyler as he returns to New York City to head the trendy magazine "Bling Bling." In alternating and intertwined storylines, readers also delve into the life and loves of "Bling" editor Zara Denise Norwood.

Zara's life and career are complicated by a fling with her boss, the wealthy and powerful media mogul Davis Vincent McClinton. A painful break-up and the reappearance of recurring Harris character John Basil Henderson — this go-round sporting a heart as over-pumped as his torso — complicate Raymond's life.

"A Love" features sparkling supporting characters including Zara's best girlfriends Justine and Kai and gay Harden. The novel reinforces themes of family, friends, fidelity and frothy sexual hi-jinks.

HARRIS CREATES A CONNECTION between the world of his characters and his legion of readers with an overly-exhaustive list of real-life people, places and pop culture sign posts, including the tragic death of Aaliyah and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which punctuate much of the latter half of the novel.

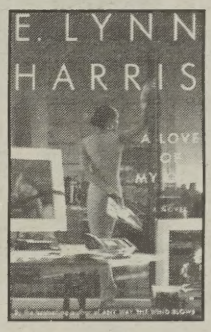
At times, the novel reads like the "Bling Bling" motto "for people who want everything" with diluted storylines, incomprehensible character connections and inconceivable plotlines.

Another hindrance for the novel that may not concern ardent Harris fans is his construction of a perfect world of beauty, class and sophistication.

Much of the messiness of modern metropolitan sex and dating has been purged from the novel, as have any sign of people who are not drop-dead gorgeous model-actress-hard-bodied studs and ladies, whose life stories, no matter how sensational, end happily.

The author is at his best when he delves into meatier issues of interest to his cross-section of readers, including family, African-American bisexuality, homosexuality and homophobia, black-on-black racism and the need for role models among blacks and gays that transcend pop culture clichés and stereotypes.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ZOLA and her best girlfriends is warm, endearing and as palpably real as the emotion



The successful formula of author E. Lynn Harris returns in his latest novel, 'A Love of My Own,' in which his popular beautiful people characters provide fun, if not heady, summer reading.

felt by Raymond for the ne'er-do-well Basil and the romantic loss he feels from his broken partnership with boyfriend Trent.

In this, his eighth novel, Harris moves slightly from the theme of African-American bisexuality and life on the "down low" — a theme earlier works have presented with dramatic results and to critical praise — and looks more closely at the changing nature of both homosexual and heterosexual relationships.

And the service the author has done his core audience by shedding a soft light on the risks of "down low" sexuality to women and gay men who bear the brunt of disease and personal devastation is unquestionable.

Generally, the characters in "A Love of My Own" are a fair representation of modern love and existence, if at times underplayed and oversimplified. The story may at times fly off track, but keeps the reader enmeshed and honestly concerned with the lives of his characters. His pop culture shout-outs may be exhaustive, but they are hard-earned and relevant.

Harris fans will certainly continue to ring blocks to meet him, prize his autograph and present him with homemade delicacies.

Like the delectable treats his adoring fans give him, E. Lynn Harris' "A Love of My Own" is a sweet treat for the summer reading senses. Whether it leaves you with a sugar headache or sated remains, as always, a matter of individual taste.

MORE INFO

E. Lynn Harris reading and booksigning
Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse
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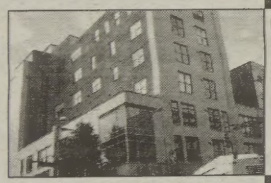

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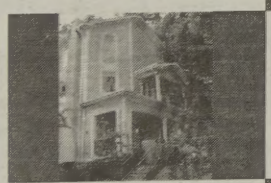

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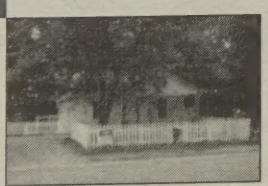

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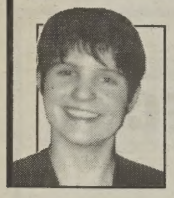


Annual **women-only celebration** hearkens free-and-easy '70s roots with music, nudity, empowerment.

Lesbian liberation

THIS TIME EVERY YEAR, THOUSANDS of women all across the continent are happily getting ready to trade the modern comforts of home for a more primitive-type of vacation paradise.

To some, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, this year running Aug. 13 -18, might not sound like much of a vacation. When nature calls, the Festival doesn't have indoor plumbing. When you dine out, the Festival doesn't provide plates or utensils. And when it rains, there is no roof to keep you dry. But what there is at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival makes up for what's missing.

A 15-hour drive or a short flight away, just seeing the 650-acre festival grounds — known to veterans as "the land" — tucked deep in the beautiful woods of upper Michigan is worth the trip. The Festival is also the perfect place for great art, great music or just a great women-only space.

Back in 1975, the festival was one of the only places lesbians could hold their partner's hand in public while listening to women's music, talking feminist politics and learning how to feel comfortable with themselves and each other as a community.

TODAY, THERE ARE MANY MORE entertainment alternatives for lesbians, but the festival is still very much a staple. More than 6,000 women attend, many making the pilgrimage year after year. It is common to find couples who met at the festival celebrating their anniversaries there.

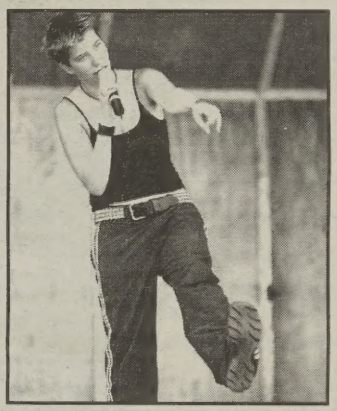
"I love being in a women-only atmosphere," said Atlantan Angela Taylor, "You feel safe and a whole lot freer at Michigan. Up there, you don't have a society that's so heterosexual and so patriarchal judging you."

This year, Taylor plans to carpool with other Atlantans up to the festival.

Many say they go because they feel empowered to be themselves and let it all hang out, and sometimes that's meant literally. It's not unusual for a woman wearing nothing but blue body paint to serve you your vegetarian dinner.

Even if you don't chose to forgo clothing for the festival as some women will do, you do have to get naked with your festival friends sometimes. The communal showers are out in the open and nothing will make you a friend faster than asking a complete stranger to pass the soap.

Long-lasting friendships are also forged attending festival events. There's the Lois Lane run, football, basketball and of course, lot's of music.



Some 6,000 women from around the country will hear the spoken word artistry of **Alix Olson** as she kicks off the 2002 Michigan Womyn's Festival. This year's lineup also includes Bitch & Animal, Elvira Kurt, the Butchies and almost 40 other acts.

More than 40 performers take the stage this year. Seeing legends of women's music like Holly Near and Edwina Tyler play under the starry Michigan sky will be incredible. And it will be hard to resist asking a woman to dance to the more raucous acts like the Butchies, the North Carolina band who played on Indigo Girl Amy Ray's solo album.

"As always, this year we have such a great mix of old time favorites and new artists," said Sandy Ramsey, a festival organizer. "That's one of our real strengths. We draw women of all ages and backgrounds to our festival, and we all have fun together."

Throughout the festival, workshop leaders also teach African drumming, spoken word and even demonstrate the most pleasurable ways to play with sex toys.

The Michigan Womyn's Festival focus on fun in a women-only space may seem like a vacation straight out of the 70's lesbian separatist movement, but it's singular goal is to help women-support-women in a creative atmosphere. That makes Michigan as important and as exciting a trip today as it was when it began almost thirty years ago.

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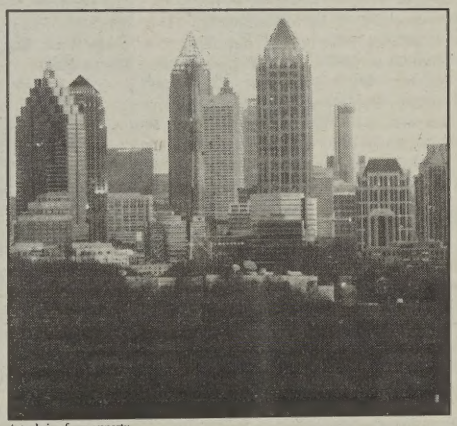
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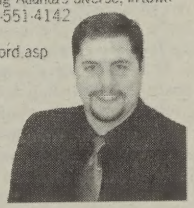

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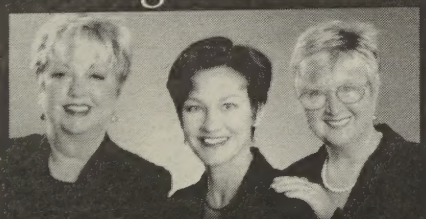

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dish There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Anita Loan

Back in 1977, singer and orange juice spokeswoman Anita Bryant tried to persuade Florida voters to vote for the repeal of an ordinance that protected civil rights for gays. Now she is trying to persuade the IRS to give her Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the National Enquirer reports.

Bryant and her husband, Charlie Dry, already filed for bankruptcy after their Branson, Mo. theater went belly up. After that, they tried again with the Music Mansion, a theater in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., home to Dolly Parton's theme park Dollywood.

According to the Enquirer, Bryant reportedly owes 40 former employees $112,122 as well as owing $80,000 to the IRS, $410,000 to the Tennessee state government, $250,000 to contractors and lenders and $200,000 to assorted retailers.

"Anita always told us that the Lord would provide. And as a Christian, me and lots of others believed her," Margaret Cole, a former box office employee at the Music Mansion, told the Enquirer. "We worked week after week, month after month without a paycheck, only promises. After six months I gave up. I'm still owed $6,400 in missed wages, and I've given up hope of ever seeing a penny."

And while the employees at the Mansion were reportedly stealing popcorn and candy from the concession stand so that they could eat, Bryant and Dry were living in a mansion of their own. The paper reports that the two were living in a $350,000 lake-front mansion in nearby Sevierville, Tenn., and paying $2,500 a month in rent.

Bryant even owes her half-brother a heap of money.

"I signed over the family farm to her — worth $135,000 — to help her out when her dinner theater in Branson, Mo., was struggling in 1997, she filed for bankruptcy 32 days later," Sonny Bryant told the paper. "Now I'm destitute — living in a government project and surviving off food stamps."

Hey buddy, the line forms here. Bryant has owed gays an apology since 1977, and she still hasn't made good on that debt, either.

Not without my daughter

Recently-out talk show host Rosie O'Donnell has been left by her partner, who is pregnant by insemination with the couple's child, at least according to the Globe. The tabloid reports that Kelli Carpenter went on a three-day cruise with Rosie's adopted daughter Chelsea, 5, but without O'Donnell.

"Kelli told Rosie in no uncertain terms that if she didn't get herself straightened out and start treating her better, then she was gone," a "friend of the couple" told the tabloid. "She told Rosie, 'I've had enough.'"

After that, the friend told the paper that Carpenter "stormed out" to go on the cruise, which was originally supposed to be a romantic getaway for the couple, without O'Donnell.

"Kelli is at the end of her rope with Rosie's negative attitude, super-sloppy ways and nasty moods," a "friend of the family" said.

Supposedly this comes on the heels of O'Donnell's own little solo vacation.

"She was gone for three days and never once did she call Kelli to let her know she was OK or ask about her health or how the baby was doing," the "friend of the couple" said, detailing when Rosie left in the middle of the night to go away with friends. "Kelli was crushed by [Rosie's] uncaring behavior."

Sources told the Globe that some of the animosity is coming from O'Donnell's jealousy over Carpenter's pregnancy. Though O'Donnell already has three adopted children and the couple originally decided that Carpenter should carry the child, O'Donnell is wishing that she were the one who was pregnant.

Well, if Carpenter really does leave, maybe O'Donnell can get the decidedly ungay Tom Cruise to father her children.

Foster children

Jodie Foster is overjoyed after the birth of her now 6-month-old baby boy Kit, the National Examiner reports. The tabloid says that Foster, already the mother of a 3-year-old son, is taking time off from the Hollywood fast track to raise her kids.

"Some actors pay someone to pick up their mail and walk their dog and pick up the kids from school. They're paying someone else to live their lives so they can work more," Foster told the paper. "I guarantee you they don't give their kids baths, and those kids get faxes on Christmas Day. That's not the way I want to live."

Ironically, the tabloid didn't bother Foster about her private life.

"Despite rumors that she's a lesbian — rumors fueled by her longtime relationship with movie executive Cydney Bernhard — she won't discuss her sexuality," the paper writes, and doesn't even quote a "friend" or a "source close to the actress" to talk about how Foster is a big ol' queer.

A tabloid that won't print vicious rumors or bother celebrities about their sex lives? That's more shocking than a 500-pound baby!

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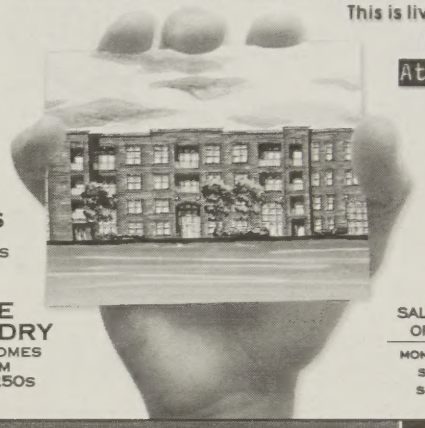
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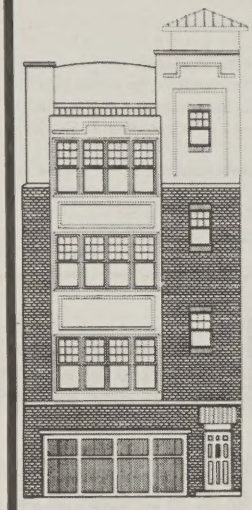

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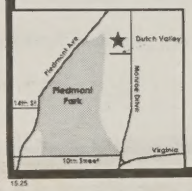

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Hotlanta offers parties, but no river this year

HOTLANTA, continued from **Page 29**

officials warned AID Atlanta that there may not be proceeds this year, Parsons says.

"They have been very gracious about being upfront with us about it," he adds. "I think it's commendable that they are not making promises they can't keep, but of course if they do make money, we hope to be a beneficiary.

Hotlanta officials did not respond to questions about the benefit or expected returns. The event's Web site boasts a history including some "$150,000 to AID Atlanta and other AIDS Service organizations in metro Atlanta."

Packed schedule

NOT TO BE DISSUADED, HOTLANTA organizers are offering plenty to keep participation high with a full schedule of events surrounding this year's "Disco" theme. Each official event is named after songs that were big in the era when even Hotlanta was new.

Even without the river event, Hotlanta has grown into four days and three nights full of dances, parties, a "Mr." and a "Miss" "Hotlanta" contest and a substitute water event to keep participants cool in the city's notorious summer heat.

"Bad Girls: Clash of the Disco Divas" is this year's Miss Hotlanta International Pageant drag extravaganza that kicks off the weekend on Thursday night, Aug. 8. Hotlanta's host hotel Sheraton Colony Square offers their ballroom for the competition, and a reception will follow at Burkhart's Pub.

Club eleven50 has joined Hotlanta this year, and offers events beginning on Friday, Aug. 9. Cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres in the afternoon lead into "Macho Man," the theme for this year's Mr. Hotlanta contest, where beefcake and talent go head to head for the coveted title.

The "Menergy" dance party immediately follows the winners' announcement with Grammy award-nominated DJ Tony Moran, and Backstreet Atlanta's afterhours party follows at 4 a.m.

Hotlanta really kicks into gear on Saturday, Aug. 10 with the official Welcome Party, again at eleven50, with cocktails and tapas to the sounds of Atlanta's own DJ Biff. The afternoon continues with an outdoor water event at eleven50 with "YMCA," which promises "fun, sun and games."

"Its carnival-style games, and activities in an outdoor area at eleven50," Sharley says. "We want to give them something different where can get some sun be outdoors; we're going to set up some games maybe like kissing booth for dollar."

The money raised from the games goes directly to AID Atlanta no matter how much money is raised by Hotlanta overall, Sharley confirmed.

The weekend's main event is "Turn the Heat Around," a dance party with DJ Mark Anthony at the Sheraton Colony Square with an after-hours party at Blu.

By the time participants have sunned, danced and partied for three days, Sunday tops the weekend with even more of the same. "Love is in the Air" is the Hotlanta Sunday Tea Dance with DJ Michael Fierman outdoors and indoors at the Atlanta Civic Center, followed by "Last Dance" at Blu.

Out of towners can register online, and Atlantans can get tickets at Outwrite Bookstore, The Boy Next Door, ED's Records and the Poster Hut.

Mike Fleming can be reached at **mfleming@sovo.com**.

The Mr. Hotlanta contest is one the biggest draws of the four-day event known as the 'Granddaddy of the Circuit.' (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

MORE INFO

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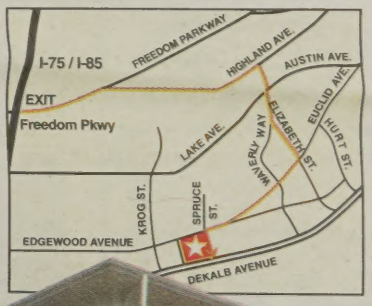

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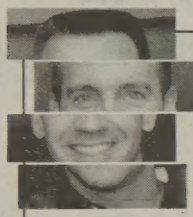

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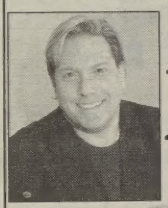

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medical report

Drug company says it will freeze price of HIV meds in U.S.

NEW YORK — GlaxoSmithKline has announced that it will implement a two-year freeze in the U.S. on the list price of the company's entire portfolio of anti-HIV products through January 2004, AIDS Weekly reported July 29. The company said the decision was a way to help address some of the needs of the financially embattled AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, which are experiencing shortfalls in funding. "As leaders in HIV/AIDS treatments, we share a responsibility to step into the breach and help patients access adequate HIV/AIDS therapy in the U.S., just as we are doing in the developing world," said Peter Hare, GSK vice president for HIV. The company also emphasized the need to implement a sustainable, long-term solution to state ADAP funding pressures.

Gay health conferences set for U.S., Canada

WASHINGTON — A national lesbian health conference is planned for Washington in September, followed by a gay and lesbian medical association conference in Canada during October. The Mautner Project will present the "National Lesbian Health Confer-ence 2002: Healing Works" from Sept. 26 to 28. The conference is sponsored by a broad coalition of more than 60 groups and agencies. Featured speakers include Kate Kendall, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights; Francine Ramsey, executive director of the Zuna Institute and co-founder of the National Black Lesbian Conference; and Caitlin Ryan, gay and lesbian youth issues expert and co-founder of the National Lesbian & Gay Health Foundation. Speakers at the second conference, organized by the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association and set for Oct. 24-26 in Toronto, include Patricia Ireland, former president of the National Organization for Women, and Allan Rock, Canada's industry minister and former minister of health.

Patricia Ireland, former head of the National Organization for Women, will headline a conference on gay health set for October in Toronto. (Photo courtesy chestnut.org)

Doctors treat depressed HIV patients differently, study says

PITTSBURGH — A new study suggests that physicians could be making a lethal mistake if they fail to give the same credibility and treatment to depressed patients with HIV that they give to nondepressed patients with the disease. In a study published in the July 2002 issue of the Journal of General & Internal Medicine, a research team found that those HIV patients who experience more symptoms, regardless of how depressed they may or may not be, are the ones more likely to die within the coming year. Physicians who may be tempted to dismiss symptoms reported by a patient with HIV who is depressed are missing the bigger picture, according to the study. Lead author Amy M. Kilbourne, a researcher with the Veterans Administration Pittsburgh Center for Health Equity Research & Promotion, and her colleagues used data from a study of HIV patients treated at Veterans Administration medical centers in Cleveland, Houston and Manhattan between June 1999 and July 2000. The authors found that those patients who had begun the study with the highest number of HIV symptoms were more likely to be among the participants who died at the one-year mark. Kilbourne warned against treating the medical symptoms of HIV any differently in patients who are and are not depressed.

San Fran voters to get ballot measure on medical marijuana

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Frustrated by the federal government's determination to shut down medical marijuana clubs, San Francisco officials are thinking about growing their own. The city Board of Supervisors voted July 22 to put a measure on the November ballot that would have city officials explore growing marijuana on publicly owned lots and distributing it to ill patients. "The health department or some other entity would distribute it over their own counter," said gay Supervisor Mark Leno, who proposed the idea with three colleagues. San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan was unavailable for comment, but has been outspoken in his support of medical marijuana clubs. "The real fight we've been having is distribution," said Wayne Justmann, who has been HIV positive for more than 15 years. He operates one of San Francisco's 11 remaining pot clubs.

Fla. man infected with HIV says he will sue over bad blood

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — A man infected by HIV after receiving a tainted transfusion has notified Florida Blood Services of his plans to sue, the St. Petersburg Times reported. Florida Blood Services was notified of the intent soon after it was revealed that tests failed to detect HIV in donated blood. The victims, the man in his 20s filing the suit and a woman in her mid-60s, were told July 17 that they had contracted HIV from blood and plasma transfusions in Hillsborough and Pinellas county hospitals, according to Florida Blood Services, which processed the blood. The donor gave infected blood in March, but had contracted the disease so recently that tests on the blood didn't detect it, officials have said. Florida Blood Services contends it has done nothing wrong. The agency has not released the names of the donor or the recipients, or said where they were treated. The man's attorney, Steve Barnes, said he was infected in March during abdominal surgery. The hospital declined comment.

From staff and wire reports

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Continued from page 44

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Interior landscaping

HUMORIST FRAN LEOBOWITZ ONCE published a list of things that were out of place. Somewhere near the top was "you are a plant and you are in my apartment." Leobowitz was writing in the early '80's, when the pages of "Architectural Digest" frequently looked more like "Jungle Today" than an interior design journal.

Since then, Americans have found better balance in decorating with plants. Having something in the living room that is alive other than you and the cat is a warming, reassuring thing. Plants can soften a stark or severe decor and add personality to the drab neutrality of any living space.

But like all living things, plants need care and attention. If you don't particularly care about them, or want a carefree house that can get by on an occasional sweep of the duster, having plants to take care of will just be irritating. In such cases, there is little point to investing in greenery just because someone has told you it will soften and add interest to your home's decor.

The only reason to have houseplants is because you like them. If you don't particularly care for cats, you wouldn't likely to rush out to the nearest pet store just for the cozy warmth of a furry little calico sunning itself in the window. Apply the same common sense to interior landscaping.

If you don't really care for plants, you have two options: forget about them and use art to accent the room instead, or use silk plants. The problem with silk plants is that they seldom look real and satisfying — even the really good and expensive ones — and they have an air of permanent sameness that defeats the whole purpose and real joy of having plants.

Window plants can bring the outdoors in, brightening a stark décor with living vibrance.

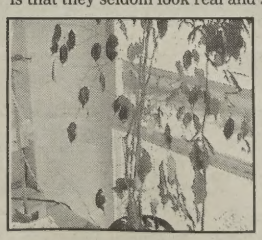
If you like plants, recognize that they will require time and care and be prepared to give it. They are alive and can't be treated like furniture.

ONCE YOU INVEST IN PLANTS, THE most important part of having them effectively lies in knowing where not to put them. Plants need light, even shade lovers like ferns. They also need moisture. If you tuck one away in a dark corner as an accent, or into a dry, shade-drawn room that you seldom use, you might as well pour weed killer on it and be done with it.

Plants are like people. They work most effectively in places where you would naturally expect to find them. Indoor plants need conditions that are as much like the outdoors as possible: sunny window ledges, porches, airy rooms and bright spots with fairly high humidity for tropical plants and ferns.

The distant shadowy tops of tall furniture that are not near natural light, dry guest rooms, the hearth of a fireplace and dark staircase niches are all bad places for plants to hang out. If such spots need an accent, find a more appropriate — and inanimate — object to do the job.

I once had a ficus tree in my living room. There were windows on three sides, and the tree was as happy as a pig in slop — maybe a little too happy. It soon outgrew its pot and the living room looked like a rainforest. So I moved it to my bedroom, which, though smaller, had a fine corner by the bed where it could spread.



Ficus trees love the light, but can grow to overpower a room.

Houseplants are living things, and just because you need 'something' there, an empty wall is not a good place for it.

The trouble was, while the bedroom faced south, the close quarters and softer light were less than the tree was used to. Within a week, I was raking my bed before I could get into it. And shortly thereafter, a plant-loving friend called me a murderer, confiscated it, and took it home to her sun porch.

PART OF THE TROUBLE WITH MY ficus tree was that I had not considered scale. It was just too big for the house. Just as oversized furniture can overwhelm a room, big plants can make you feel like the Little Shop of Horrors. This mistake is most often made in the bathroom, where ferns, tropical vines and flowering plants are right at home and easy to care for. But plants the size of the toilet that sit precariously on the back of the tank, or hanging pots that you bang your head on every time you get out of the shower, will be little more than a nuisance.

If your bathroom is windowless — an unfortunate but commonplace element of modern domestic architecture — plants are a bad idea, even if you use grow lamps.

They'll be hard to maintain and will always look like a mistake.

If you can't live without plants and have extremely bad light in your house, then go ahead and have your plants, using grow lights. But try to put them on or near window ledges, near glass doors or under a skylight.

Just don't forget that a plant is alive, and treat it the way you'd want yourself treated if you were ripped out of your natural environment and confined to a pot.

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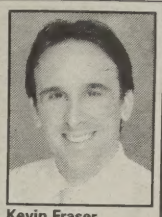

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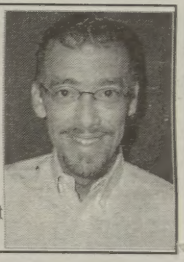

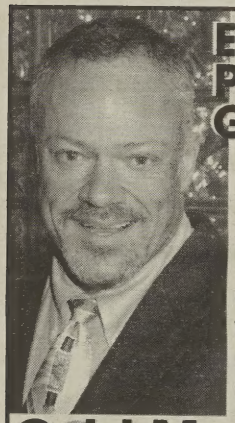

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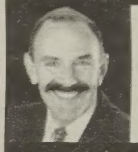

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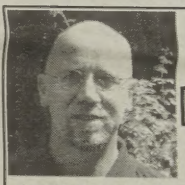

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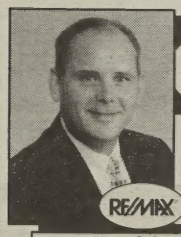

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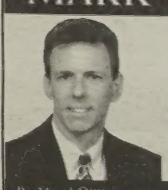

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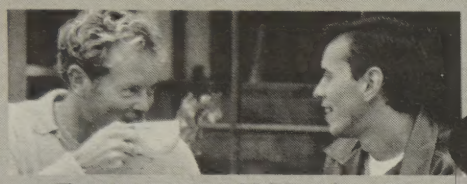

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Men Seeking Men

TAKING THE NEXT STEP
Attractive, professional, multi-racial GM, 36, 6'2", 195lbs, seeks tall, attractive, professional, fun GM, with sense of humor, not afraid of a challenge. Atlanta ☎6341

BOYISH GUY WANTED
GM, mid-20s, enjoys the beach, mountains, skiing, partying. Seeking boyish, youthful-looking GM, 18-24, for friendship first. Concord ☎6531

CALLING ALL BODY-BUILDERS
Handsome, in shape, caring GWM, 38, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks GWM body builder for friendship, cuddling, possibly, more. Show off those muscles for your number one fan! Atlanta ☎4939

ATLANTA ATHLETES ONLY
Handsome, educated SWM, 33, professional, clean cut and very fit, seeks SWPM, athletes, in Atlanta, who are looking to meet a sincere, mature guy. Discretion assured. Serious reply only. ☎5959

AM I THE ONE?
GWM, 22, 5'10", black/brown, good-looking, nice, outgoing, seeks GM with similar qualities, for fun, dining out, shopping, possible LTR.. Gracewood ☎6387

TIRED OF THE BAR SCENE
GWPM, 26, 5'11", 215lbs, red/hazel, bear type, enjoys sports, tv, movies, and dining out. Seeking GWM, 23-29, H/W proportionate, D/D-free, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5358

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Down-to-earth, honest, attractive, shy SBM, 21, 5'10", 165lbs, black/brown, loves amusement parks, reading, cuddling, photography, videos, shopping, movies. Seeking down-to-earth, outgoing SWM, 18-30, for friendship, warm, loving LTR. Macon ☎5511

LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE
SBM, 29, 5'5", black/brown, enjoys dining out, music, movies, travel, quiet evenings at home. Seeking SM, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Macon ☎6404

CUTE AND LAID-BACK
SM, 28, 6'1", 230lbs, black/brown, preppy, very intelligent, looking for a guy, 20s-early 30s, who is cool, likes to have fun, and doesn't smoke. Atlanta ☎6564

HEART TO HEART
GWM, 40s, 6', attractive, masculine, romantic, professional, non-scene, in search of handsome, similar GWM for monogamous relationship. Atlanta ☎6283

ROME-MAN
Masculine GWM, 37, brown. blue, 5'8", 155lbs, nice build, seeking masculine GM, 30-45 tall, dark hair, HIV+, stable, outgoing, sense of humor, not into games, positive outlook. For friendship, possibly more. Rome ☎6453

READ THIS AD!
GM, 27, in shape, warm, sincere, happy with life and career. Seeking GM, 18-33, for friendship, socializing. Northeast Georgia or North Metro area. Gainesville ☎5982

WANTED...
slim build, under 40, masculine GM, no drugs, for dating. I'm a BM, 6'1", 175lbs, masculine, attractive, likes running, reading, movies, music, having fun. Decatur area. ☎6414

JOCK 4 BLACK
GM, 6', 180lbs, Italian, masculine, intelligent, nicely built, likes, sports, music, movies. Seeking muscular, fit BM, 20-38, HIV negative, N/S, smooth a plus. Atlanta ☎6339

RESORTING TO THE ADS...
to find a sincere, intelligent man. GWM, 33, 5'8", fit, boyish, cool. Loves outdoors, concerts, coffee, reading, art, Shakespeare, clubbing. Bitter, boring femmes need not apply. Please have it together. Atlanta ☎6340

ARE YOU MY OTHER HALF?
WM, 5'9", short/hazel-green, moustache and goatee, fit, pastimes are painting, sculpting, watching tv, volunteer work, the park. Seeking someone well-balanced, knows how to laugh, compassionate, to share life with me. Atlanta ☎6550

SUMMER FLING
WM, 42, 6', 165lbs, seeks equally sexy, smart, clean-cut, trim SM, for light-hearted, summer misbehaving, autumn romance negotiable. Live in the moment, shop, eat out, swap cocktail recipes and travel. Atlanta ☎6304

I'M YOUR GREENER PASTURE
Greek SWPM, 44, 5'8", 280lbs, black/brown, enjoys cooking, listening, cuddling, laughing, honesty. Not afraid to try something new. Seeking SM, hairy chest. Savannah. Ridgeland ☎6394

Been Glanced?

ANSLEY PUBLICS
I saw you at Ansley publics, you were wearing a black tanktop in the seafood section on July 5th. I was the tall, blonde guy with orange shirt, cap and sunglasses. Atlanta ☎6506

JULY 4 - BBQ GLANCES
Dusty's BBQ. You: Picking up your order and very handsome. Me: Eating ribs and looking at you. Let's connect. Atlanta ☎6509

KEN THE BODYBUILDER
Received your voice mail response to my ad, but you didn't leave any way for me to contact you. Would love to talk. Please leave me your contact info! Atlanta ☎6248

READ YOUR LIPS
You were in the parade, riding on a convertible, flesh-colored dress. Me: in front of Swiss Hotel. Our eyes met, so why can't we. Dalton ☎6530

JASON FROM SC
We spoke on Marta Train riding home from Pride, I complimented your t-shirt. Your stop was Dunwoddy. Wish I had given you my number. Liked your smile. Coffee? Joe. Atlanta ☎6490

N. HIGHLAND CRUISED
Steve, hope you see this ad! We met on N. Highland walking in May. We cruised. We talked. I failed to get a last name or number. Please call! Atlanta ☎6338

BIG, BLACK TRUCK
You: black extended cab GMC or Chevy, white t-shirt, ball cap. Me: black Dodge Ram, shorts, tank top. You drove by as I was getting into truck, 10th & Piedmont. Atlanta ☎6447

MACY'S V NECK SQ. JUNE 15
Saw you at Polo section, exchanged glances. You: red Polo shirt,shorts, me: Asian, dark Polo shirt, jeans. Contact me if you're interested, didn't have a chance to catch your number. Alpharetta ☎6418

DID YOU KNOW?
You can place a FREE ad in the Been Glanced Section of the Southern Voice, just by calling 1-800-457-3094.

NEW TO THE AREA
SWM, 31, 5'9", 145lbs, dark/dark, enjoys cooking, reading, walks. Seeking down-to-earth, sober WM, 26-32, for monogamous LTR. Acworth ☎6567

KEEP IT REAL
be true. BM, 5'9", 160lbs, strong mind, fit body, works out regularly, spontaneous, can handle his life, seeks the same in a true GBM. Be true to yourself. Stone Mountain ☎6549

OAKWOOD
WM, 36, 5'5", brown/brown, football player's build, likes shopping, dining out, watching tv, dogs. Seeking outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, down-to-earth SM, for friendship and dating. Flowery Branch ☎6223

SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST
Light-hearted SM, 42, 6'2", 180lbs, brown hair, boy-next-door features, likes movies, reading, music, plays. Seeking male with similar interests. Atlanta ☎5326

WARM-HEARTED
GWM, 44, kind, caring, enjoys many activities. Seeking outgoing, approachable male for dating, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎6465

SEEKS WHITE MALE
Attractive, masculine, intelligent SBM, 18, 6'1", 165lbs, enjoys movies, music, conversation, quiet evenings at home. Seeking intelligent GWM, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Centerville ☎6489

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Sincere, honest, quiet, easygoing GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40-60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

ROMANTIC & MASCULINE
GWM, 42, 5'11", 165lbs, blond/green, slim, muscular build, professional athlete, HIV+, romantic, sincere, seeks same for LTR. Kennesaw ☎5995

MIDTOWN GWM
Professional, 37, 5'9", 150lbs, HIV-, drug-free, sports-minded (college football), dining out, weekend getaways, and dog lover. Seeking same in GWM, 21-35, for fun and companionship. Atlanta ☎6568

SEEK LOVE, HAPPINESS
Affectionate, caring BM, 49, 5'9", 201lbs, seeks attractive, caring, sensitive SM, 55+, for cuddling and companionship. Normal ☎3978

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

COULD THIS BE YOU?
GWM, 40, 6'3", 175lbs, D/D-free, N/S, not bar type, seeks same in WM, 30-45, H/W proportionate, for LTR. Atlanta ☎6317

SPONTANEOUS FLIRTATIOUS
Spell-casting GWM, 38, HIV +, well-groomed, well-read, great in social situations, seeks younger GM, 30-40, to balance the passion of an exciting, sensual relationship with well-grounded, stable, mutually respecting friendship. Atlanta ☎5512

ARE YOU THE ONE?
GM, 21, 6', 190lbs, in good shape, enjoys working out, movies, sports, reading and more. Seeking active, fit GM for dating, possible LTR. ☎6503

NO QUEENS, ALL KINGS
GBM, 33, 6', 175lbs, enjoys candlelight and you. I am ready, willing and able. All calls will be returned. Atlanta ☎6518

SEEKING MUSCLE BEAR
GWM, 42, 5'7", 145lbs, muscular, hairy, buzz haircut, beard, enjoys working out, outdoors, cultural events. Seeking body builder, 35+, who likes to show off his large chest in public, for dating. Atlanta ☎6079

NOT A MANDINGO THING
Sincere, attractive HIV+, healthy, physically active GWM, 41, 5'9", 173lbs, seeks masculine, versatile, top GBM, for friendship, dating, and possible LTR. N/D, N/S, not into bar scene. Atlanta. ☎6211

SEEKING BLACK MALE
Attractive, successful, responsible, fun SWM, 40, 6'1", 180lbs, seeks similar man of color, for friendship, dating, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎6301

OLDER IS BETTER
Nice-looking GM, 68, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks GM, 40-80, for movies, travel, dining out, sports and romance. Snellville ☎6475

LOOKING FOR FUN
Mature GWM seeks other males for fun, pleasure and friendship. Let's get together, call now. Atlanta. ☎5335

CUTE BEAR IN...
Stone Mountain. GWM, 38, 5'8", 300lbs, moustache, goatee, hairy, enjoys outdoors, movies, music, quiet times at home. Seeking GWM for friendship, dating, and possible lifetime relationship. ☎6356

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
WM, 43, 5'11", 190lbs, looking for marriage-minded man. Love music, theatre, walking, jogging, romance, and spending time together. Non-smoker or drinker. Swainsboro. ☎6569

MASCULINE WM WANTED
Masculine GBM, 5'10", 160lbs, HIV+, enjoys working out. Seeking active, masculine, serious-minded GWM. East Point ☎5954

SEXY, DOWN-TO-EARTH BM
Attractive, masculine, out, 48 (looks thirty-something), 5'7", 185lbs, muscular build, top, romantic, intelligent, seeks out, sensual, masculine bottom, down-to-earth GM for serious, non-drama relationship. Atlanta ☎6215

CHARLOTTE MASCULINE BM
Masculine BM, 33, 6'2", 198lbs, medium/muscular, sense of humor, relocating soon. Seeking WM, 18-25, for fun times. Masculine a plus. Gastonia ☎6305

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You can place a FREE Personal ad, 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling our automated ad taking service. Or if you'd like help in crafting your personal, you can talk to our customer service reps Mon. through Fri. from 8:30am to 11pm and Sun. from 10 am to 6 pm. Then you'll record a FREE voice greeting in which you can talk a little bit about yourself and the person you'd like to meet. You can pick up your messages at your leisure and call anyone who interests you. The best part, it's all FREE. *

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I'd like my ad to appear in the following category:

- ☐ Men Seeking Men
- ☐ Been Glanced
- ☐ Bisexuals
- ☐ Women Seeking Women
- ☐ Just Friends
- ☐ TV/TS

The following information is confidential and necessary to send out instructions you will need.

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City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail : _____

HEADLINE (**25** characters) _____

AD COPY (**30** words are FREE!) _____

2969

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How To Respond To Ads.

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To listen and respond, call
1-900-226-6235
Call costs $2.29 per minute. Must be 18+

With your credit card, call
1-800-982-6829

DOUGLASVILLE
Handsome WM, 5'11", 205lbs, blue eyes, all-over tan, works out five days a week, seeks other gym types that like to sunbathe and go to the beach. Douglasville ☎5932

SOMEONE JUST LIKE ME
SWM, 46, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/blue, moustache, easy to get along with, seeks male, 35-55, for friendship/relationship. Please be sincere, honest, humorous. All replies answered. Mountain City ☎3369

SEEKS BOYFRIEND 4 DATING
GWM, 43, 5'10", 170lbs, good shape, clean-shaven, seeks slender, younger boyfriend, 21-35, for dating and affection. Attracted to Asians, Latinos, and Caucasians. Me: professional, easygoing, open-minded. Atlanta ☎6424

CUTE GUY LOOKING
Fit GWPM, 45 (looks, feels younger), 6', 165lbs, blonde, smooth, top, works out, D/D-free, love movies, travel, outdoors. Seeking PM, 32-45, race unimportant, H/W proportionate. Let's date, see what happens. Atlanta ☎6421

NEW TO ATLANTA
Attractive, masculine Latino, 38, 5'9", 166lbs, enjoys rollerblading, gym, sports, Braves games, movies. Seeking masculine GWM, 32-48, for fun and friendship. Atlanta ☎6245

FRIENDSHIP, LOVE...
and commitment. WM, 5'11", black/blue, average build, N/S, light drinker, likes travel, bowling, most sports, ice skating. Seeking honest, trustworthy, loyal, kind person for friendship and dating first, maybe more. Port Saint Joe ☎6329

SEEKING COMMITMENT
BM, 22, 5'9", 215lbs, versatile bottom, likes movies, dining out, more. Seeking masculine BM, 22-34, versatile top, for dating, maybe more. Atlanta ☎6330

WRESTLER
GWM, 49, 6', 190lbs, tan, good shape, works out, seeks other interested in wrestling, safe fun. Atlanta ☎6423

MASCULINE GUY SEEKS SAME
GWPM, 40, 5'10", 185lbs, salt-n-pepper/brown, workout type build, HIV-, fun-loving, seeks male who enjoys outdoors, weekend travel, good meals, movies, and romance. Redhead a+. Atlanta ☎6313

BRAVES MAN...
seeks Braves fan. Masculine, discreet BM seeks Latino or white baseball fans for good times at the ball park. I enjoy cooking, eating out, drinking cold beer. Let's talk. Atlanta ☎6422

PROFESSIONAL MAN
Seeking similar, who enjoys sports, water sports, movies, dining out, and also dates woman. ☎6420

LITTLE DR JOHN
It was Christmas 2000, we hit it off, only for a short while. Let's do it again, but this time in the heat of the summer. Decatur ☎6343

Women Seeking Women

HAVING A GREAT TIME
GWPF, 40s, attractive, spirited, cultured, enjoys all sorts of activities, seeks same for friendship and dating. Decatur ☎6491

HUGGABLE AND LOVEABLE
GWF, 35, soft-butch, seeks same for friendship, adventure, romance, talks about whatever comes to mind. Friendship first, LTR later. Looking for a challenge, then take a chance. Marietta ☎5901

LAID BACK
GBF, 41, soft butch, enjoys dining, movies, reading. Seeking feminine GBF, 35+, N/S, for dating, companionship. Augusta ☎6393

SEEKING SYNERGY
GWPF, 44, 5'6", brown/hazel, stable, spiritual, seeks special woman to share fun, travel, travel, dining out, theater and life. Lawrenceville ☎6463

SERIOUSLY SEEKING PARTNER
GBF, 35, 6'2", 205lbs, very attractive, successful, friendly, warm, and ready to settle down. Seeking partner, with similar qualities, starting as friends first, ending in LTR. N/S, N/drugs. Decatur. Tucker ☎6395

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
SM, 41, likes walks or running in the park, reading. Seeking lesbian woman for casual dating first, hopefully becoming more. Stone Mountain ☎6452

DON'T GIVE UP
Very attractive, successful, intelligent, warm and caring, young-looking, feminine 40 year-old SWPF seeks similar for exclusive relationship. N/S, N/Drugs. Canton/Roswell. ☎5107

ATTRACTIVE BUTCH
GBF, 33, very attractive, short brown/brown, mom, likes reading, action movies, basketball, bowling. Seeking outgoing, fun, honest lady with similar interests. Atlanta ☎6440

ARE YOU READY?
BF, 37, 5'7", attractive, soft butch, seeks mature, feminine woman, 35-45, race unimportant. I enjoy dining out, sports, art, and music. Atlanta ☎6269

HOME ALONE
Cute, butch, secure, funny, intelligent GWF, 44, blonde, lives busy, comfortable life, take home to momma type. Seeking femme, to share quality life with. Lithia Springs ☎6214

FUN AND EASYGOING
Seeking honest, fabulous, fun femme, 35+, 5'7"+, N/S. I'm your honest, fabulous, pretty tomboy-type, 35+, 6'3", N/S, and full of fun. No couch potatoes need apply. Douglasville ☎6302

LOST AND FOUND
GWF, 36, honest, outgoing, seeks attractive, stable, athletic GF, femme or soft butch, for friendship, possible LTR. No smoking or drugs. Are you the one? Norcross ☎6209

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL
Feminine GWPF, 26, 5'2", 125lbs, blonde/blue, enjoys golf, hiking, adventure, travel, politics, cultural activities. Seeking attractive, independent, stable GWPF, 25-35, for friendship, possibly more. No drama. Atlanta. ☎6419

SOFT RED BONE
GBF, 41, 5'5", 175lbs, warm, wild, and wonderful, enjoys sporting events and good conversation. Seeking female, 28+, 4'-5'9", attractive, intelligent, independent. Atlanta ☎6180

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS
Stable, spiritual, GWF, 43, blonde/hazel, 5'2", 130lbs, light drinker, enjoys outdoor activities, dinners, movies, music, church. Seeking GWF, 35-45, N/S, N/drugs, for friendship, casual dating. Lithonia. ☎6336

PRINCE SEEKS PRINCESS
BPF (soft stud) seeks PBF or Latina female. Let's dine out and drink wine together to our hearts' content. Lesbians only please! Drug and disease-free! Fairburn ☎6539

SOFT STUD
Romantic, sensitive GF, 23, 5'3", enjoys long walks, movies, sports, music. Seeking BF, 21+, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta. ☎6342

LET'S HAVE FUN
Youthful, older seeks content woman, with self, not afraid of being single for movies, picnics, baseball, hikes, and politics. No republicans need apply. Atlanta ☎6307

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LOOK HERE
GWPF, 49+1, serious about enjoying life, love to travel emotionally, spiritually, and by plane, attractive, stable, athletic, fit, vegetarian, who is solvent, chem free. Seeking friends first. Pine Lake ☎6566

CROSS A STATE LINE?
GWF, 50+, spontaneous, energetic, Tennessee poet, church-goer, loves mountains, beaches, romantic evenings, movies, slow dancing. Seeking similar interests, GWF, 45+, honest, N/Drugs, N/S. Friendship, more? Knoxville. ☎6510

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
GF, 32, 5'6", 240lbs, black/brown, single mom, school bus driver, enjoys writing poetry, movies, walks, quiet evenings at home. Seeking compatible male for friendship first. Atlanta ☎6507

HOME ALONE
Attractive, soft butch GWF, 40, 5'5, blonde/blue, enjoys camping, playing cards. Seeking feminine GWF, 32-42. Looking for my light, someone to come home to because that's when our day begins. Lithia Springs ☎6481

CREATIVE LASS
SWPF, 32, very attractive and feminine, into working out, travel, writing, reading, long walks, hiking, great food, and the Discovery channel. Seeking friendship first, possibly more. Atlanta ☎6450

SEEKING A FRIEND...
femme or stud. GBF, 31, femme, full-figured (size 18), seeks a friend/Taebo partner. Would like to bowl, movies, and dinner sometimes also. Riverdale ☎6480

WHERE ART THOU?
BF, seeks classy black female, 50-60, well-educated, professionally accomplished, financially secure, solid middle class values and sense of discretion. To share life. Honest and sincere replies only! Stone Mountain ☎6508

FEMININE AND FULL-FIGURED
Very attractive, feminine GF, 26, 5'11", brown/brown, single mom, enjoys reading, movies, dining out, travel. Seeking GF, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎6502

LOST
GWF, 48, 5'5", 135lbs, auburn/green, enjoys quiet, romantic evenings, outdoors, movies, travel. Seeking down-to-earth GF, for companionship and romance. Clarkesville ☎6533

Just Friends

LIFE EXISTS BEYOND 285
Honest, fun, happy white male couple, 37 and 42, HIV+, enjoy dining, travel, camping, television, the gym, and much more. Looking for couples and singles for friendship. Stockbridge ☎6538

CENTRAL GWINNETT
GWM, couple, mid-30s and mid-40s, seeks down-to-earth, non-pretentious GWM and GFs for platonic friendship. N/S and no drugs. Not into bars. ☎6479

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Guidelines: Southern Voice personals are for adults 18 or over seeking long-term monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses. First meetings should always occur in a public place. Abbreviations are permitted only to indicate gender preference, race and religion. We suggest your ad contain a self-description, age range, lifestyle and avocations. Ads and voice messages containing explicit sexual language will not be accepted. This publication reserves the right to revise copy containing objectionable phrases, to reject in its sole discretion any advertisement on account of its text. An advertiser's print ad may be renewed on the date the corresponding voice greeting box expires or thereafter. This publication assumes no responsibility for the content or reply to any Southern Voice ad. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content and all replies to any advertisement or recorded message, and for all claims made against this publication and its agents as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold this publication, its employees and its agents harmless from all costs, expenses (including reasonable attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication of recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Southern Voice, the advertiser agrees not to leave his/her phone number, last name or address in his/her voice greeting. Not all boxes contain voice greetings.

classifieds

Atlanta Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

Occasions

Southern Voice publishes birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives free of charge in its classifieds section. E-mail your special occasions to occasions@sovo.com. Call 404-876-1819, ext. 19. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write: Southern Voice/Occasions, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306. You must include a telephone number. Occasions are verified by telephone.

anniversaries

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus wishes a very happy anniversary to its member Chuck Conner (Bass) and his partner Doug Worthy on Aug. 2, and member Terry Dimter (Tenor II) and his partner Alain Mallette on Aug. 5.

birthdays

Happy birthday to Laura Douglas-Brown, Southern Voice news editor, and Andrew Keegan, current columnist and former editorial assistant, on Aug. 3.

The directors of Georgia Equality wish a happy birthday to Saralyn Chesnut, board co-chair, on Aug. 3.

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus wishes a very happy birthday to member Jamey B. Laughery (Baritone) on Aug. 2. and to members Jesse Salinas (Tenor I) and William Scott Waters (Baritone) on Aug. 7.

Happy birthday to Jeffrey Terrell, former Southern Voice editorial assistant, on Aug. 4.

Several members of Black & White Men Together Atlanta celebrate birthdays this week: Best wishes to Wallace M. and Gary N. on Aug. 5, Jerry M. on Aug. 7 and Jason K. on Aug. 8.

Happy birthday to HIV activist extraordinaire Mona Bennett on Aug. 5.

Commitment Ceremonies

'On July 27, 2002, Brian Belmont and Rob Peters united their lives in a commitment ceremony at the Peachtree Club. Following the ceremony Brian and Rob flew to Vermont to have a civil union ceremony on July 29.'

AIDS & HIV Services & Education

The Atlanta Harm Reduction Center is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing information, condoms, referrals, and more to the people who are underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time and energy. For more info write to: A.H.R.C. 1020 Dekalb Ave NE suite 17, Atlanta, Ga 30307, or call 404-526-9222. AHRAATLANTA@JUNO.COM

FREE HIV TESTING - Confidential HIV testing every Wednesday from 5:30-7pm @ YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. in Decatur. Call 404-378-6620 for more information. www.youthpride.org

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625 or call Susan at 770-395-2546.

AIDS 101 Awareness & Action Seminar: a great opportunity for anyone to learn about HIV/AIDS. Includes over 20 breakout sessions, giving you choice in your curriculum. CEU approved. Saturday, August 17th, 8:30am-5:00pm @ Perimater College. Call AID Atlanta @ 404-870-7742 for more info.

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES will be facilitating a support group for men who are HIV positive and have AIDS. Every Wednesday 6pm til 7:30pm, 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, suite 602 404-753-2900 ext 17.

Sylvia Kay Harrison

03.20.42 - 07.24.02

Spiritual Counselor and Psychic Advisor

Sylvia Kay Harrison made her transition from this life experience on Wed., July 24, 2002. Ms. Harrison was a devoted mother of three children. A gifted clairvoyant, she decided to use her gift to help with the spiritual needs of other people. Her respect for the privacy of her clients had her hold secret the people who sought her guidance. She would only say her client base, after twenty-seven years, was in the thousands and reached all spectrums of the human spirit and beliefs. She was very well versed in the ways of divine spirit and loved to go t all types of religious services. She said of dying, "You know, I'm not afraid of dying. I know what waits for me once I get to the other side. I never understood why people are afraid of dying as it is a natural progression of life." Her oldest daughter, Jackie Harrison, preceded her in death. Ms. Harrison is survived by her daughter, Sherry Walton; her son, Rev. Tony Crapolicchio and his partner Dr. Dan Burns; and one grandson, Michael Harrison. She is also survived by her brother and sister in law, Paul and Peggy Harrison and several nieces and nephews. *There will be a celebration for the life of Ms. Harrison at H.M. Patterson & Son Funeral Home, 1020 Spring St., Atlanta, Ga 30309 on Sunday, August 4th, 2002 at 3:00pm. The family has requested no black attire at Ms. Harrison's service and request in lieu of flowers that a donation be made to the Trinity Church of Religious Science, PO Box 2591, Decatur, Ga 30031*

Hillside Chapel & Truth Center

Join's Our Common Welfare to provide Free HIV antibody testing & counseling. Testing using oral fluids & urine tests, Alternating Tuesdays from 11amto7pm at 2416 Cascade Rd. SW. Atlanta GA 30311. For more information call 404-296-3090 or 404-758-2515.

Announcements

Lavender Light Book Club - 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7:30 - 9:30, Snellville Borders, 1929 Scenic Hwy. FREE. Franklin Abbott- facilitator. 404-874-8294 for info.

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1997 Subaru Legacy Wagon LSI- 4 door/4wheel drive silver/ 40k/miles ABS, excellent condition. New Michelin tires. $12,900. 404-501-0661.

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Look younger, enhance intimacy and feel better about baring your back, (even your butt). Remove unwanted hair by waxing. Trims also available. www.massageproatl.com Ken 404-371-4424.

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Art Center on Eastside of Atlanta (Stone Mountain), seeks talented carpenter, electrician, handyman for part time employment. Call Michael at 770-380-4067.

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Handyman Services and Renovation. Specializing in Tile, Painting, Carpentry, Plumbing & Electrical. Serving our community for over 5 years! Call Shawn McGuire 404-408-7748.

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Lawn Mowing - Just Bought a New Home? Yard Need Cleaning? Summer Clean-Up Services. Call Dale: 770-496-1537 or 770-757-6909.

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VEGETARIAN DISHES • DELICIOUS SANDWICHES
MARYLAND CRABCAKES

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Handsome, hairy CMT honors all types of men with therapeutic & erotic massage. Private studio with shower. Shallowford Access Rd/I-85. VISA/MC/AMEX. John 770-455-0212.

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Therapueutic/Sensual Full Body Massage w/ Table. Experience the muscle PLUS! Friendly w/ good looks count for personable service. Reasonable rates 7-days a week. CHAD 678-427-2420.

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Full body massage by a mature masculine man with strong and gentle hands to make you feel good from head to toe. By Dwight - Certified Massage Therapist. 404-315-1551. Del4watr@aol.com.

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Real Estate For Rent

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Midtown/Juniper St - 2BR/1BA condo, fireplace, cathedral ceilings, private garden, skylights, private balcony. WD, DW, Central A/C, off-street parking, alarm system, $1150/month, available 8/15. 410-783-1999.

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On the Square, 2BR/2BA, Walk to Everything! Hardwoods, Fireplace, Large Kitchen, Whirlpool-Tub, Pool, Secured Parking, Fitness Room, Private Balcony, $1400/mo. 404-377-5494 / 404-638-3731.

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1). 2BR/2BA Duplex w/Office in Va. Highland/Piedmont Park Area. Fireplace, Hardwoods, High Ceilings. $1400/mo. 2). Large 1-Bedroom (possibly 2) w/Bath Duplex in Va. Highland/Piedmont Park Area. Fireplace, Hardwoods, High Ceilings. $1000/mo. Call 404-888-0772.

DECATUR/AGNES SCOTT TOWN-HOME - 2BR/2.5BA, 3-Story, Perfect for Roommates each having separate bed/bath, prvt deck, large office or storage, 2-person Jacuzzi, gas logs, 2-car garage w/openers, W/D room, New construction = light & open. Sm pets OK, $1600/mo. Atlantaintown 404-931-4066.

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MORNINGSIDE - 3BR/2BA, Fireplace, Large Kitchen & Living/Dining, Basement, W/D hookup, Sun Room, $2000 including utilities. 404-872-9361.

GREAT LOCATION

Oakhurst/Decatur, 2BR/2BA, hardwoods, LR w/fireplace, sep. DR, Kitchen & B'fast room w/Granite counters & slate floor, Tiled Sunroom, Sep. Office, Basement, W/D Connection, Central Air, Fenced Backyard, Deck, 2-Car Garage. $1,300/mo. + utilities, includes lawn service. 404-373-4667.

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EAST ATLANTA HOUSE w/ 2 Apts. *2BR/2BA, Huge Master Bedroom & Bath, LR, DR, Den, Deck, Screen Porch, $1200/mo. *1BR/1BA, LR, Eat-in Kitchen. $600/mo. **Both CHA, Security. 404-624-4334.

LILBURN- 2 Bedroom In-law Suite. Private Entrance, Peaceful, Quiet Subdivision. Utilities Included. Nonsmoker, No Pets, $785/mo. + $450 dep. Available Immediately. 770-279-2426.

Apartment for Rent - 6/Flags Area - 13-miles to Airport/Downtown. Large 2BR/1BA in lower level of Ranch on 2-quiet acres. Separate Entrance. All New Lighting, New Kitchen & Carpet. Fireplace & Patio. $700/mo. Includes most utilities. Pes considered. Available 08/01. 770-732-8492.

Midtown/Buckhead- 1BR Apartment in Home. Private Entrance, Off Street Parking, 9'Ceiling, Hardwood Floors, Cable, Renovated Kitchen/Bath. $700/mo. Includes Most Utilities. 404-873-4286. Application/References Required.

GRANT PARK- Available Now. 1BR/1BA, W/D, C/H/A. $850/mo, utilities, premium cable included. 404-577-4163, leave message. References.

VA. HIGHLAND

Luxury 2BR/1.5BA renovated 20's Townhouse, living room, dining room, den, 2/fireplaces, W/D, Gourmet kitchen, C/H/A, off-street parking, fenced courtyard, front porch. Alarm system. $1590/mo. No pets. 404-379-9502.

Real Estate for Rent-Condos

1BR/1BA, Morningside renovated Condo for rent w/granite, hardwoods, W/D, parking, easy access to Interstates. Some utilities included. $875/mo. 404-409-3597.

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MIDTOWN - Prestigious Mayfair - Studios, 1BR, 2BR, Penthouses available Now! Amenities. Cooper BrownRE 404-371-1975 or www.atlantaloftsandcondos.com

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Real Estate For Rent-House

DECATUR/EMORY: Cute Bungalow, Total renovation, 2BR/1BA plus office, den, LR, Eat-in Kitchen, CHA, screened porch, hardwood floors. MUST SEE! $1100/mo. 706-348-8749.

House for Rent in Oakhurst: 2BR/1BA with study, deck, nice yard and 2-car garage. Available 9/1. $1300/mo. 404-373-4698.

1099 Clydesdale Dr. - $950/mo. - 3BR/1.5BA, Hardwoods, CHA, W/D included, Pets welcome, Large fenced yard, 1-block from Walk/Bike "Path." Available Now. Jerrilyn 770-849-2694.

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southern voice

Classified Order Form

Fax: 404-876-2709
Phone: 404-876-1819 ext. 15

TO PLACE AN AD: IN PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice (M-F, 9-6 pm)* 1075 Zonolite Rd., Ste. 1-D, Atlanta. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* Classifieds, 1075 Zonolite Rd, Ste. 1D, Atlanta, GA 30306. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 404-876-1819 ext. 15. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 404-876-2709. **BY E-MAIL:** classifieds@sovo.com. **AD POLICY:** *Southern Voice* reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting *Southern Voice* standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: *Southern Voice* is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

DEADLINE FOR AD SUBMISSION • ATLANTA: MONDAY AT 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines
___ HIV Services & Education
___ Volunteers

INDIVIDUAL RATE $7:
___ Announcements
___ Auditions
___ Employment–Seeking
___ Pets–Free or Lost & Found
___ Roommates

BUSINESS RATE $15:
___ Autos
___ Business
___ Employment–Full Time
___ Employment–Part Time
___ Finance
___ Health
___ Legal
___ Massage Therapy
___ Merchandise
___ Pets–For Sale, Training
___ Publications
___ Real Estate–For Rent
___ Real Estate–For Sale
___ Travel

Call 404-876-1819 ext. 15 for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD

Please print clearly

CATEGORY:_____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

Giant Headline ($5/week)–Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: 7.00
Additional words ____ x 50¢: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x ____ # of issues
Total: $_____

BUSINESS RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $15.00 per week. Additional words at $1.00 each per week.

Up to 20 words: 15.00
Additional words ____ x $1.00: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x ____ # of issues
Total: $_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone _____
Check Enclosed ____ Charge to my ❑ AMEX ❑ MC ❑ VISA
Card #_____ Exp.____/____

3-Miles from Downtown Decatur! Nice brick ranch w/large rooms & hardwoods! 3BR/1.5BA, C/H/A, Full basement with W/D. Large backyard w/patio. $975/mo. H-404-288-9515 / C-404-308-7980.

House for Rent- 6/Flags location - 15-minutes from Midtown. 900sqft, 2BR/1BA Home on 2 acres. (Landlord next door). Large Updated Kitchen, Fireplace, W/D, 2-Screen Porches overlook bamboo back yard. $850/mo + Deposit. Water included. Pets considered. Available 08/01. 770-732-8492.

DECATUR HOUSE - 3BR/1BA, Hardwood floors, Renovated kitchen and bath, CHA, W/D, D/W, Lots of extras! $1200/mo. 404-288-1619.

HAPEVILLE/AIRPORT - Great for Roommates! 3BR/1BA, Bonus Room, All New Remodeled: Bath, Kitchen, Carpet, Appliances, W/D Included! Must See! $950/mo. + Deposit. Day:404-335-6368 Ask for David / or PM:770-961-6263.

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KIRKWOOD - Beautiful, new. 3BR/2BA (or 2BR/2BA w/den); Close to Agnes Scott, Decatur & Downtown; Hardwood floors; lg kitchen; full unfinished bsmt; washer/dryer incl.; lg yard; off-street pkg; $1275/mo.; 404-733-6855; mbharty@hotmail.com

BUCKHEAD HOME

Collier Hills near I-75/85. Charming, renovated 2BR/2BA, hardwoods, LR, separate DR, Den, scr/porch, appliances, alarm/sys, 2-car/garage, pets considered. Perfect roommate plan. $1500/mo. 404-352-9520.

Real Estate For Rent-Lofts

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PENTHOUSE LEVEL - in Renaissance Lofts, Executive Furnishings, 1BR/1BA, Gated, 24-Hr. Concierge, Pool, Gym, Corner Unit w/Midtown & City Views. $2300/mo. 678-778-7784.

Real Estate For Sale

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A RETREAT - Minutes from Downtown Decatur! 1926 Craftsman. 1-acre. Historic Garden Club of Clarkston. 4BR/3BA. $295K. 4050 E. Ponce de Leon. Frank Wynne, Classic Atlanta Properties, 404-310-5742.

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2nd home, investment and retirement properties available between Rosemary Beach and Destin. BOB KNOTT Toll Free: 1-866-835-1331, email: knott@30arealty.com.

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House with Character! 1966 McJenkin Dr.- Unique Interior, 3BR/2BA, High Ceilings, Hardwoods, All Appliances, New: Kitchen & HVAC System. Large Private Deck, Creek, Friendly, Safe Neighborhood, Available Now! 706-654-9041. $250,000.

Beautiful, solid, spacious brick ranch in one of Decatur's oldest, tree-lined neighborhoods: DUNAIRE-minutes from Decatur Square. 3BR/1.5BA; Eat-in Kitchen, separate DiningRoom, LivingRoom, spacious Den w/fireplace. Hardwood floors, Carport, fenced-in yard filled w/azaleas, gardenias, dogwoods & magnificent silver birch trees! New Gutterguard. A strong neighborhood association, pool & volleyball court. Linda Vaughn, ReMax 404-257-4833.

BROOKHAVEN CONDO - 2BR/2BA, $136,000. Berber Carpet, Fireplace, Good Roommate Plan; Washer/Dryer hookups. Call 404-325-5579.

Fulton-Buckhead/P'tree Hills. Renovated 3BR/2BA Brick Ranch, Great curb appeal, LivingRoom w/Fireplace, DiningRoom, Hardwood Floors, Fenced Backyard, Basement, 2-car Garage, $449,000. 404-365-8596. OPEN HOUSE:Sun-8/4, 2P-5P.

Central Park

240 Renaissance Parkway. $185,000. 2BR/2BA Condo. Fitness center, swimming pool, dog friendly. Walking distance to new Publix & Walgreens. Great location across from McGill Park. Angie Ponsell 404-226-2002. Keller Williams Realty.

WOODLAND HILLS

3BD/2BA fully Renovated. Beautiful Hardwood Floors, Fr. Doors to screen porch & Huge deck. Beautiful renovation & landscaping. $297,000. Call Jeanette 404-633-5298.

VA. HIGHLANDS

Spacious craftsman bungalow built in 1920. 1-block from Piedmont Park & pool! 3-bedroom-(or 4), 2-bath w/spacious rooms. Original details still intact. 1109 Monroe Drive w/alley access! Walk to shopping & Midtown nightlife. Evelyn; RE/MAX Metro 770-270-2242.

DECATUR TWNHSE

BEST VALUE!! HUGE SQFT! Updated 3BR/2.5BA, Separate liv/den/din room. Decorator colors, crown molding & much more! Private Brick Patio. Near Emory & Square. $224,900. Lori-JPruitt 404-964-5776.

EAST ATLANTA

1286 McPherson Avenue. OpenHouse Sunday 3-5! Walk to Village! Renovated charm/character. 3BR/3BA, HUGE bonus room & 2-extra bedrooms on 2nd-floor. 2-decks, hardwood floors, huge backyard, double-sided working firplace, front porch. $279,000. Call Greta Thomas 404-696-9155, RE/MAX Platinum.

FLORIDA'S GULF COAST

Perfect Paradise Home!
5 min. to Madeira Beach! Close to Largest Gay Resort in U.S.
Unique 2-3 Bedroom w/"Florida Room," Open, Large LivingRoom-Kitchen w/vaulted ceiling filled w/Sunlight & potential...
Nice Yard, 2-car Carport. Private, Room for Pool, R.V., boat... This area is one of the best! Close to bike trails, park... & much, much more! $116,000 Call: 727-397-6017.

BEACH HOMES

Looking for the perfect vacation or retirement home/condo? Consider the beach communities of Seaside, Seagrove and Grayton Beach, Florida. White sand, emerald water, old Florida cottages and great shopping! Call Chris Cash at 1-800-994-5030 or email: cash@30Arealty.com.

West End: 3BR/2BA $165,000 - Sylvan Hills: 2BR/1BA $85,000 & $99,900 - Jefferson Park: 4BR/3BA $230,000; 3BR/2BA $180,000; 3BR/1BA $140,000 METRO BROKERS Joyce Hay 770-330-9988.

Chastain Park - spacious 3BR/3.5BA ranch. Perfect for executives or childless couple. $479,900. Susan Dillon, Coldwell Banker. 404-355-3249, 404-504-0790.

EAST POINT/COLONIAL HILLS-1324 Elizabeth Lane, 2,000sq.ft. Bungalow. 3BR/2BA, LivingRoom, DiningRoom, Laundry Room, 10Ft Ceilings, All-new-systems, Total Renovation, Hardwood Floors, 3-FirePlaces, $217,900. 770-394-7739.

MIDTOWN/ ANSLEY

3BR/2BA Updated Bungalow. Off-Street Parking. Best Value in the Area. $289,900. FSBO. Buyers/Agents Welcome. 404-876-3642 for Appointment.

TUCKER 114900

CONDO 2BR/2.5BA. Quiet neighborhood. Large Kitchen, bedrooms & closets. Roommate plan with formal dining. Private yard for pets. Call H.S.D. agent Steve, 770-337-4028.

ANSLEY TERRACE- fantastic renovated 2BR/2BA with a den, New Marble/granite baths and kitchen, fireplace. Possible LEASE/PURCHASE. Reduced $264,900. 404-892-2405.

MIDTOWN Condo. Melrose Park. 2BR/1BA. $127,900. Tile Bath & Kitchen. Washer, Dryer Hookups. Hardwood Floors. Gated, Assigned Parking. Walk to the Eagle, Krispy Kreme, or Piedmont Park. Contact Norma Palus. Coldwell Banker The Condo Store. 404-262-6636 or 404-918-4270.

DRUID HILLS ESTATE

858 Oakdale Road - $1.9 million. 5-Bedrooms, 3.5-Baths, Large Living Room, Banquet size Dining Room, 10 ft. Ceilings, 5 Fireplaces, 4 Porches, 1.3 Acres. Debbie McDonald 404-373-0998 / Garry Wilmot 404-634-5120.

DRUID HILLS HOME

Designed & Built by Lewis "Buck" Crook 1424 Fairview Road. $1.3 million. 5-Bedrooms, 3.5-Baths, Large Living Room, Dining Room, Sunroom plus Den, Large Lot. Debbie McDonald 404-373-0998 / Cissy Carey 770-414-8597.

GRANT PARK CONDO

$154,900
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath
Quaint Community of 20 Units
Hardwoods & Tile
Corian Countertops
Stainless Steel Appliances
Washer/Dryer Hook-ups
Gated Parking
Large Balcony
2nd Floor Corner Unit
Low Association Dues
CALL TODAY FOR APPT.
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404-213-8855

MORNINGSIDE - 3BR/2BA BUNGALOW - Renovated, all hardwoods, fireplace, updated kitchen, master bath with Jacuzzi, private terraced gardens. $549,000. Cookie Re/Max 770-265-6417.

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1 Biscayne Dr. 30309
2BR/2BA B'HEAD CONDO
MANY UPGRADES. $179,900
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Real Estate For Sale • Mountains

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Gorgeous 8-Acres in Western N.C. Atop Scenic Brush Creek Mountain. Only 3-hours from Atlanta! Paved Access, $15,500/acre. Will Divide. 404-226-1373.

GORGEOUS VIEW

4BR/3.5BA Home for Sale in North Georgia Mountains. Call Owner for info & Email/Mail Pictures. 404-846-0105.

Room For Rent

Room For Rent on I-285 & P'tree Ind. Blvd. $450/mo. Utilities Included. Call After 5:00 PM. 770-458-9168.

GWINNETT

Bedroom with Separate but Private Bath for Rent. Non-Smoker. Nice Home on full acre. $450/mo. All Utilities Included. Call Kelly 404-234-4377.

FUN spaces for FUN PEOPLE. Elegant Edwardian home on Grant Park. $125/wkly. Shared utilities. No animals or inside smoking. 404-627-4794.

Roommates

TUCKER/Northlake area, GWM seeks roommate to share home. $500/mo. + dep. includes utilities. 770-496-9932.

MIDTOWN/BUCKHEAD - 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Condo on Peachtree. Furnished Penthouse includes own bathroom, queen-size bed, large walk-in closet, cable, fireplace, great views. $600/mo. + deposit + 1/2 utilities. No smoking, neat/clean, small dog friendly, references. 404-603-8962.

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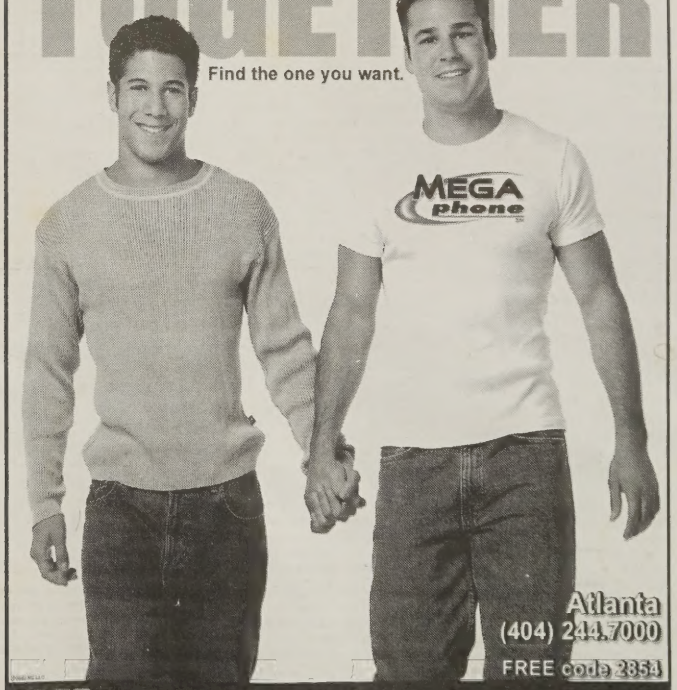

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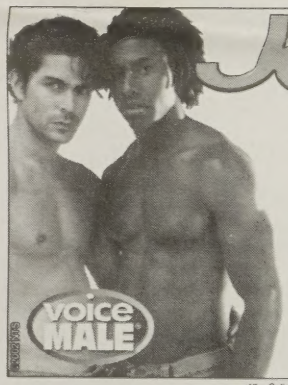

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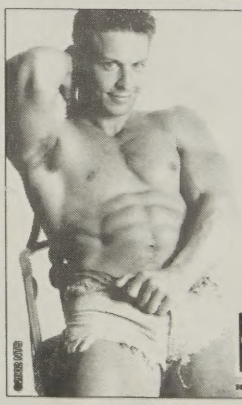

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southern voice

Homo for the holidays

A guide to bountiful options for the holiday season, with a gay twist.

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WWW.SOVO.COM ALL THE NEWS FOR YOUR **LIFE**. AND YOUR **STYLE**. DECEMBER 6, 2002

Gay rights take center court

U.S. Supreme Court takes up Texas sodomy case that could overturn Georgia's anti-gay Bowers vs. Hardwick.

Story, page 6

Family law revisions by prestigious group represent 'very significant turning point for the recognition of the families of same-sex couples.'

Story, page 7

(Photo of U.S Supreme Court by AP)

RIGHT TURN?: Ralph Reed's role in state politics leaves some gay pundits concerned. **Page 3**

WORKPLACE BIAS: Cracker Barrel retreats from anti-gay stand on employment protection. **Page 15**

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local news

Christian Coalition touts access to Perdue

Conservative group praises governor-elect's commitment to 'pro-family agenda'

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

The head of the Georgia Christian Coalition sent an e-mail to members this week touting her invitation to meet with advisers to Gov.-elect Sonny Perdue, who will take office in January as Georgia's first Republican governor since 1872.

"I received a call from the governor's transition team last week requesting a meeting with me to discuss and plan how to best implement a pro-family agenda over the course of his administration," wrote Sadie Fields, chair of the state Christian Coalition.

News of Perdue's apparent outreach to the conservative group — coupled with recent anti-gay campaigning by Ralph Reed, chair of the Georgia Republican Party — leaves gay rights advocates worried about the direction state politics will take under the leadership of Republicans, who now control the governor's mansion and the state Senate.

"[The Republican Party is] going in the same direction they always do, which is to the extreme right," said state Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates), Georgia's only openly gay state legislator. "They've come out of the gate swinging at the gay community."

In the e-mail that doubled as a Christian Coalition fund-raising appeal, Fields seemed to confirm that Republican election success would translate into unprecedented access for gay rights opponents to the governor's office.

"The governor-elect is very in tune with our values, and wants to work with us on accomplishing our goals," she said.

While the Christian Coalition says it has been invited to confer with Perdue, gay Republicans said they have not.

Marc Yeager, president of the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans, declined comment on Fields' e-mail, but said Log Cabin members are "very encouraged" by Perdue.

"We hope the same desire that led him to be the only candidate to meet with gays prior to the election will still be there after the election," Yeager said.

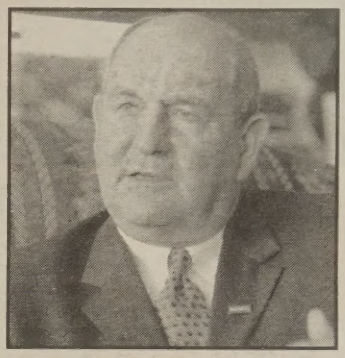
A spokesperson for Perdue said no meeting with the Christian Coalition, nor any other constituency group, is currently scheduled.

Such meetings won't be set "until after our budget review process, probably around Dec. 20," said state Sen. Bill Stephens (R-Canton), a Senate floor leader.

"But we're open to meeting with any constituency group who has an interest or concern about legislation," Stephens said.

Legislative session could target gays

Field's e-mail included a list of nine "pro-familiy" priorities for the Christian Coalition during the next legislative session, at least two of which directly deal with gay issues.



The head of Georgia's Christian Coalition, Sadie Fields, says she is invited to meet with the transition team of Gov.-elect **Sonny Perdue** to discuss a 'pro-family' agenda. (Photo by AP)

Along with measures like restricting abortion and eliminating the capital gains tax, Field specifically cited the "Defense of Scouting" bill and a bill requiring "parental notification of new clubs forming on school campus" as "legislative priorities."

Gay lobbyists and their allies in the state General Assembly vigorously fought both those bills when they were introduced in the last legislative session, and neither won passage.

The Defense of Scouting measure would ensure equal access to state facilities for Boy Scout troops, a move designed to prevent efforts in Georgia to protest the Boy Scouts' ban on gay members.

While a small number of local jurisdictions around the country have banned the Scouts, gay activists here say no Georgia school has denied any troop meeting. Because federal legislation already ensures equal access, the proposal is a "slap in the face" to gays, some observers have said.

Another bill backed by the Christian Coalition in the last legislative session would have required parental permission for students to participate in school clubs. The measure was proposed due to concerns about the handful of gay-straight alliances now meeting in public schools, Christian Coalition leaders said then.

Neither Fields nor other Christian Coalition representatives responded to interview requests.

Perdue representatives said they are aware of the coalition's advocacy of the bills.

But "I have not talked about them with the governor-elect yet," Stephens said.

Perdue did support a Defense of Scouting bill as a former Georgia state senator, Stephens said.

Yeager, the Log Cabin president, wouldn't say whether the group would lobby Perdue against the legislation.

Log Cabin is "talking to Georgia GOP leadership about our concerns about this legislation, and we obviously hope it doesn't make it out to the floor," he said.

At the same time, another conservative group is pushing the idea of "charitable choice" in Georgia.

The Georgia Faith-Based Initiatives Task Force — a loose-knit group of religious charities — is lobbying to remove the constitutional barrier prohibiting religious organizations from receiving state money.

"We know many of these religious groups discriminate against gays and others," Drenner said. "Why should they get state money to do it?"

But task force members said the argument is overstated.

"No group can discriminate against beneficiaries," Vernadette Ramirez Broyles said. "We're only talking about employment, and that's a much, much smaller picture."

Requiring some religious charities to hire gays "would be asking them to go against their identity," said Broyles, who ran unsuccessfully for the Republican nomination for Secretary of State this year.

Perdue supports "charitable choice," including it in his platform "A New Georgia," leaving gay activists worried.

"All the pre-filed bills and the push for charitable choice is a warm-up," said gay lobbyist Larry Pellegrini, director of the Georgia Rural Urban Summit. "Some will happen this year, but most won't."

If any combination of the charitable choice, defense of scouting or parental permission bills are successful, "it's going to get really, really ugly for gays this year," said Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, a statewide nonpartisan advocacy group.

More anti-gay tactics from Ralph Reed

While Perdue was the only gubernatorial candidate to meet with a gay group during this election, Ralph Reed, chair of the state Republican Party, has been no friend to gays.

As leader of the national Christian Coalition from 1988 until the mid-1990s, Reed's tenure was epitomized by the "No Queers" buttons worn by many followers.

After returning to Georgia, Reed started a private political consulting company called Century Strategies that orchestrated the vitriolic anti-gay 1998 campaign of Mitch Skandalakis, who lost his bid for lieutenant governor to Democrat Mark Taylor after accusing Taylor of pandering to gay supporters.

While such blatant anti-gay attacks weren't part of Republican campaigns in Georgia this year, Reed voiced an automated phone message sent to Florida voters designed to gain support for incumbent Gov. Jeb Bush, a Republican, running against Bill McBride, a Democrat.

The calls, which Bush denounced and said he did not authorize, featured Reed's voice saying Bush was the only candidate to support the "traditional" family and claiming McBride supported gay marriage.

Reed did not respond to interview requests by press time.

Log Cabin's Yeager declined comment on the calls.

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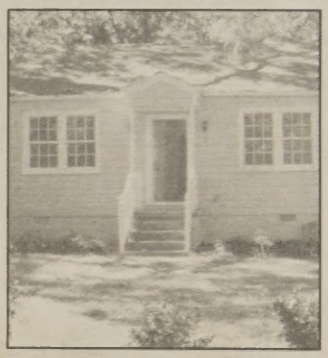


TROUBLED HOME: Georgia's only shelter for otherwise-homeless gay youth still needs to raise $140,000 by Dec. 31 or face closing. Page 4

BAR HEARING: Backstreet attorney **Jackson Cook** on Tuesday asked the Atlanta License Review Board to postpone its decision on the bar keeping its liquor license. Page 4

GAY HOCKEY: After a rocky first season, Gay Hockey Atlanta returns to the rink much improved to take on a sport dominated by 'Caucasian hetero males.' Page 22

local news

Backstreet gets two-week reprieve

Three gay bars have faced alcohol license reviews in last four months

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

The Dec. 3 meeting of Atlanta's License Review Board proved anti-climactic for some gay club-goers, but gave a small measure of relief to the owners of Backstreet after the death of the family's patriarch.

"This was all relatively routine," said Jackson Cook, Backstreet's attorney. "I made a formal motion to continue it and they were kind enough to do that."

Carmine Vara, who owned Backstreet jointly with his wife and three adult children Vicki, Henry, and John, died last week, and the family asked for time to make funeral arrangements, Cook said.

Backstreet, a 24-hour private club located at 845 Peachtree St., now faces a Dec. 17 hearing in which the License Review Board, a citizen panel appointed by the mayor, could recommend fining the club or revoking its license to sell alcohol.

According to Cook, the club faces three counts of alleged drug sales — two sales of cocaine, less that 1 gram each, to customers, and one sale of MDMP, better known as "whip-its," to an undercover officer.

"I think it's important to stress that these actions were not violations by the club, but were simply on the club's property," Cook said.

The hearing came just weeks after the license panel's decision to revoke the liquor license of another bar popular with gay patrons.

On Oct. 29, the board voted to revoke the alcohol license of the Metro Video Bar, a gay club located at 1080 Peachtree St., after Atlanta Police investigators charged the club with eight counts dealing with drug sales and inappropriate sexual activity on the club's premises.

The recommendation sits on the desk of Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, who has 90 days to issue a final decision, giving her through the end of January to make a decision.

Metro owner Don Hunnewell has asked the Atlanta Police Department to investigate what he calls the discrimination and selective enforcement by the Licensing & Permits Unit, but said that he has not received a response.

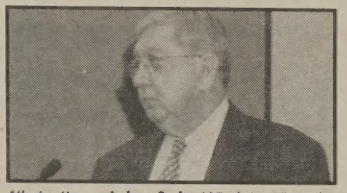
Atlanta Police spokesperson Sgt. John Quigley and Lt. P.M. Williamson, director of the unit, did not respond to interview requests by press time.

The License Review Board also voted earlier this year to suspend the alcohol license of Colours, a gay bar at 1490 Piedmont Road, for 45 days, according to Gary Cox, Atlanta's deputy chief operating officer.

Colours owner Jerry Smithey confirmed the club was cited for noise violations and received a 45-day suspension recommendation from the license panel, which was upheld by Franklin on Aug. 1.

The bar filed an appeal and won an injunction in Fulton County Superior Court, allowing the club to stay open during the court fight.

"But in legal fees and just the couple of days we were closed waiting for the injunction, I've already lost $40,000," Smithey said. "If I have to serve a 45-day suspension, it will probably kill my business."



Atlanta attorney Jackson Cook said Backstreet 'is ready' for a Dec. 17 hearing on whether the club allowed drug sales on its property. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Smithey said he has "no doubt" the city "is coming after gay bars."

Cox, the mayor's highest-ranking openly gay employee, said the city has tried to work out the suspension with Colours. Franklin has encouraged the club to apply for a license as a nightclub, not a restaurant, Cox said.

Numerous bars in Atlanta apply for liquor licenses as restaurants rather than nightclubs to be able to serve alcohol on Sundays.

Having three gay bars targeted for alcohol license revocation or suspension has bar owners concerned.

"I don't think there's any doubt that homophobia is motivating where Atlanta police officers choose to inspect," Hunnewell said this week.

License panel members denied the charge.

"That's absolutely incorrect," said Joy Barnes, a board member who is gay.

Jeffrey Norman, an assistant city attorney staffing the Dec. 3 panel meeting, said he is not aware of any pending license revocation efforts against any majority heterosexual nightclubs in Atlanta.

Only one primarily heterosexual bar — Park Bench at 260 East Paces Ferry Road in Buckhead — has recently had its license suspended, according to Cox.

Gay youth shelter struggles over funds

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

With time quickly running out, the CHRIS Rainbow Home has raised just 30 percent of the funds necessary to avoid closing the state's only shelter for gay youth, staff members said.

"The gay community has responded tremendously, both financially and with volunteering and donations," said Kyle Anderson, program director for the home. "It's really touching. But there's an awfully long way still to go."

To date, the Rainbow Home has raised $60,000 of its $200,000 goal, officials said.

Since its January 2000 opening, the home has been funded largely by a $180,000 annual grant from the federal Department of Health & Human Services. Staff members learned in October that the grant would not be renewed, leaving them to raise a large portion of their 2003 operating budget by year's end.

Gay business and entertainment venues have lined up to hold fund-raisers to help the home, Anderson said.

"Without them, we will not only be homeless, we would be hopeless," said an 18-year old resident who asked not to be identified.

New fund-raisers are being planned, said Edward Gray, fundraising chair.

But "misunderstanding" about a fundraiser at the Metro almost initiated a split between the youth shelter and the Bar Owners Association, according to Hal Gresham, one of the hosts.

CHRIS representatives declined to mention fundraisers at the Metro on the company's Web site, said Gresham, also known as entertainer Peg, an oversight that "almost made us cancel some events."

When Gresham asked shelter officials about the matter, he said the facility wanted to distance itself from recent media coverage of the Metro, which currently has its liquor license under review by the City of Atlanta over allegations of drug use at the bar.

The Metro is contesting the effort to revoke its liquor license and has pledged to appeal the matter in court.

"Needless to say some of us were offended," Gresham said. "But we sat down and talked with CHRIS, and it turned out it was only the opinion of one board member, not the organization, so we let it go."

Gray, who participated in the discussions with the Metro and Gresham, said only events officially sponsored by the home were on its Web site.

If the Rainbow Home does not raise the necessary funds and closes, donations made to CHRIS that have been earmarked for the Rainbow Home could either be returned to donors or used for the general CHRIS fund, if the donor gives permission, leaders said.

MORE INFO

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national news

Supreme Court to review Texas sodomy law

Appeal calls for overturn of Georgia's Bowers vs. Hardwick

By PENNY WEAVER

WASHINGTON — In what may amount to a landmark case for gay rights, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed this week to hear a case challenging the constitutionality of Texas' "homosexual conduct" law that criminalizes same-sex sodomy.

"This has been a long process," said Houston attorney Mitchell Katine, one of the attorneys representing the defendants in the appeal. "We are very pleased that the Supreme Court has indicated that they believe that there are some constitutional issues that at least need to be examined.

"The ultimate result will affect the entire nation," he added. "By them taking the case, we feel that is a good sign."

The New York-based Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund is also representing the two gay Houston men who were convicted under the Texas statute.

"It's a big opportunity for us and for gay men and lesbians not only in Texas but in many other parts of the country. What it signals is at least four of the justices have seen that there are serious constitutional problems with the Texas law," said Ruth E. Harlow, Lambda legal director, citing the minimum number of votes required for the court to accept the appeal.

"We're thrilled they've given us the opportunity to make our case, and we think we have two very strong arguments that should result in the law being overturned," she added.

The court is expected to hear arguments in the case, Lawrence vs. Texas, this spring and hand down a decision during the summer.

The case against the two gay men originated in a Houston bedroom in 1998 when sheriff's deputies, responding to a false report of an armed intruder, entered John Lawrence's apartment and found Lawrence and Tyrone Garner having anal sex.

Both were arrested and jailed overnight. Both pleaded no contest to the Class C misdemeanor and paid a $200 fine, plus court costs.

Tyrone Garner (left) and **John Lawrence** (center) were arrested in Lawrence's Houston home in 1998 after a false report led police to their bedroom, where they discovered the two men engaging in anal sex. Now they are challenging the constitutionality of Texas' 'homosexual conduct' law. (Photo by David J. Phillip/AP)

The Texas law under which the two were charged bans intimate relations, including oral and anal sex, between consenting adults of the same sex. Texas earlier had a sodomy law that applied to everyone, but decriminalized such activities by opposite-sex partners in 1974.

Lawrence and Garner appealed their convictions to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, which refused in April to consider the matter. In mid-July, attorneys filed an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court, and activists hope this may present an opportunity for the court to overturn its most notorious anti-gay precedent.

In that case, Bowers vs. Hardwick, a 5-4 majority upheld Georgia's sodomy law, which applied to all adults, concluding it was "facetious at best" to argue that the Constitution protected a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sex. The Georgia Supreme Court struck down the law in 1998, citing the right to privacy under that state constitution.

Lambda Legal charges that the Texas law — known as the "homosexual conduct" law — violates lesbian and gay Texans' constitutional rights to privacy and equal protection. The gay rights group hopes the case will test the constitutionality of similar laws in 13 states, four of which have sodomy laws that apply only to gays and do not outlaw oral or anal sex between heterosexuals.

"This is probably the most important legal case to gay and lesbian people in the last 20 years, since Bowers vs. Hardwick," Katine said. "It's kind of history happening right now in our lifetime. What the court does with this case will affect generations to come."

Please see SODOMY, Page 8

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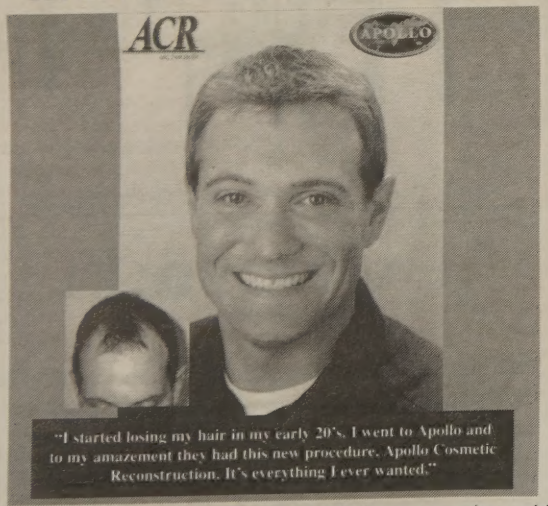
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national news

Include gays in family law, influential group says

American Law Institute says same-sex couples deserve rights in break-ups

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

Professors Ira Mark Ellman, Grace Blumberg and Katherine Bartlett authored a controversial report from the American Law Institute that recommends legal recognition for gay partners and parents.

PHILADELPHIA — Vast revisions in family law proposed by the prestigious American Law Institute would treat gay domestic partners on par with heterosexual spouses on issues including property division and child custody.

The "Principles of the Law of Family Dissolution," an almost 1,200-page tome more than a decade in the making, suggests ways courts should deal with a variety of issues that arise when couples break-up, including division of assets, alimony-like "compensatory payments," child custody, visitation and support.

Instead of focusing only on marriages that end in divorce, the recommendations also include suggestions of how the legal system should address unmarried heterosexual and gay partners.

"Instead of saying what the law is, we are saying what we think the law ought to be," said Michael Greenwald, ALI deputy director.

Established in 1923, the American Law Institute is made up of judges, lawyers and legal scholars known as the "best and brightest" in their field. Other proposed legal reforms from the group, such as the 1955 Model Penal Code, have had enormous influence in legislatures and courts around the nation.

"The American Law Institute is a very important legal voice in the country, so this is a very significant turning point for the recognition of the families of same-sex couples," said David Buckel, a senior staff attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

"The report signals the inevitability that one day our families will have full equality," Buckel said.

But that possibility has conservative legal scholars and activists riled.

The official family law principles were released in May, but began drawing fire from critics even in draft form. Scrutiny intensified after the New York Times published a Nov. 30 story on the recommendations.

Is family law "the next target of the anti-family movement?" asked a missive from the Agape Press posted Dec. 2 on the Web site of the American Family Association, an aanti-gay group.

Mormon-affiliated Brigham Young University hosted a symposium in February 2001 debating whether the ALI's recommendations would "deconstruct families."

Spurred by the "radicalism of the ALI," the family law principles "manifest significant hostility against the traditional family and against relationships established by kinship, marriage and marital adoption," argued BYU law professor Lynn D. Wardle, convenor of the symposium.

A 'moral principle'

The family dissolution principles are not the first time the American Law Institute has advocated legal revisions friendly to gays.

More than four decades ago, the group's influential Model Penal Code advocated that "all forms of sexual activity between consenting adults be legalized," meaning laws prohibiting consensual sodomy should be dropped.

Still, when the ALI set out to recommend principles governing family dissolution, the project was originally limited to divorce, according to Grace Blumberg, a law professor at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Blumberg, Arizona State University law professor Ira Mark Ellman and Duke University Law School Dean Katharine Bartlett served as ALI's three "reporters" on the project.

"A number of judges said to us that many of their litigants were unmarried couples, and could we help them out because the law is very amorphous," Blumberg said. "We said only if we can do it for gay and lesbian couples as well as unmarried heterosexuals."

The decision to include gay couples was based on both principle and practicality, the authors said.

"It was a moral principle based on a notion of equality," Blumberg said. "If anything, the case for gay and lesbian couples is more compelling because they have no capability for getting married."

Ellman, chief reporter for the project, agreed.

"I didn't have any intention in doing that chapter [on unmarried couples] unless it included same-sex couples," he said.

Defining domestic partners

The ALI's chapter on domestic partnership acknowledges the vast changes in American attitudes toward marriage in the last four decades, including a rise in unmarried couples.

These couples, according to the ALI, deserve to be treated similarly to married couples for purposes of property division and other financial matters when they break up.

The principles define domestic partners as "two persons of the same or opposite sex, not married to one another, who for a significant period of time share a primary residence and a life together as a couple."

The authors then recommend that courts deal with domestic partners in a manner almost exactly opposite to how they are usually treated now, bringing them in line with heterosexual marriages.

Currently, courts assume married partners have mutual financial obligations to each other, unless they have a specific contract — such as a prenuptial agreement — spelling out a different arrangement.

In contrast, the ALI says courts have tended to take the opposite approach to domestic partners, examining their cases through the framework of contract law rather than family law.

Under those provisions, the domestic partners are assumed to have no obligations to each other unless they have entered into some sort of contract, written or oral, spelling out their responsibilities.

The ALI recommendations turn that paradigm on its head, suggesting that — like spouses — domestic partners should be presumed to have obligations unless they specifically agree otherwise.

"We don't really care if people sign a piece of paper," said Blumberg, who co-authored the domestic partner chapter with Ellman. "It is the relationship that is important in terms of establishing obligations."

But Wardle argued at the Brigham Young symposium that the ALI recommendations "create a radically new legal status that is virtually unprecedented in American family law.

"This seems rather like using a guillotine to get rid of a severe case of dandruff," he said. "There is no need to lose one's head to solve the problem."

Recognizing gay parents

While the ALI's recommendations on domestic partnerships have sparked the most controversy, the organization also makes strong arguments for the rights and responsibilities of gay parents when their relationships end.

Gay rights organizations report little consistency in recognition of gay families around the country.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, some 23 states have "good" records on adoptions by gay individuals, while 12 are "bad" and 16 are "mixed." The "good" states drop to 11 on adoptions by gay couples, with 40 that are "bad."

When it comes to second-parent adoption, a legal procedure where a gay parent adopts their partner's biological or adopted child, only nine states offer "good" records, with 23 bad and 19 mixed.

"Any of our families could go on a vacation to see the U.S.A., and as they drive across each state border, the definition of who they are totally changes in terms of things like the status of children," Lambda's Buckel said.

The ALI report recommends that courts consider not only the rights of legal parents, but also "parents by estoppel" and "de facto parents" — both categories that can include gay parents who have not been able to adopt the children they are helping to raise.

These non-legal parents should be allowed child visitation and custody if they are in the best interest of the child, the ALI suggests.

The ALI also recommends regulations for the "best interest of the child" standard itself that could help gay parents.

"Some courts assume that the open homosexuality of a parent is detrimental to the child's interests," the principles state. "This treatment reflects a moral judgment, not a scientific one."

The mere fact of a parent's sexual orientation should have no bearing on custody decisions, while "homosexual conduct, like heterosexual, extramarital conduct, should be disregarded unless shown to be harmful to an individual child," the ALI recommends.

The opinion from the influential law group could have an important effect, according to Kathy T. Graham, a law professor at Willamette University in Salem, Ore.

"It stands as a clear-cut articulation of a standard that promotes gender and sexual orientation fairness," Graham wrote in an article in the Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy.

Undermining marriage?

According to the ALI reporters, their goal in crafting the "Principles of the Law of Family Dissolution" was to suggest policies that reflect the broad range of families in today's society.

But according to Wardle, "the deconstruction of family relationships is a persistent theme of the ALI principles."

In particular, granting legal rights to domestic partners "would significantly weaken the institution of marriage" and "it is contrary to the best interests of society to legalize same-sex domestic partnerships," argued Wardle, who has also lobbied in favor of Utah's ban on gay marriage and against gay parenting.

The Ali authors denied charges that their recommendations would undermine heterosexual marriage.

"This April, I will celebrate my 35th wedding anniversary, so obviously, I believe in marriage," Ellman said. "But I don't think the law has much effect on the way people approach their intimate lives — people don't consult statutes to decide if they want to marry or if they are attracted to the same sex or the opposite sex," Ellman said.

"Because of that, my guidepost is fairness," he said.

Instead of weakening marriage, Blumberg argued that the recognition of financial obligations for domestic partners should actually strengthen the institution.

Some people may avoid getting married in order to avoid such obligations, "but there is no point in not getting married if the law is going to treat them like they are married," she said.

MORE INFO

American Law Institute
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national news

Texas sodomy challenge could impact nation

SODOMY, continued from **Page 6**

Kennedy is swing vote?

In court documents, Lambda attorneys offer two independent constitutional arguments against the Texas sodomy law: one, that it violates the constitutional right to privacy; and two, that it violates the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection because the law criminalizes conduct for gays but does not do so for heterosexuals.

By asking the Supreme Court to consider the right to privacy issue, Lambda is asking the justices to overturn the court's 1986 Hardwick decision, a landmark case that rejected a federal right to privacy challenge brought by a gay man.

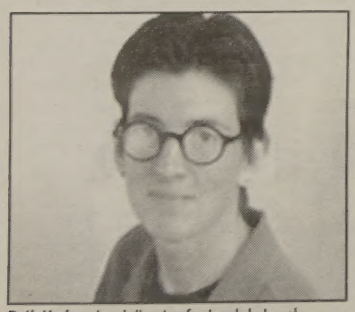
Briefs filed with the U.S. Supreme Court by the State of Texas in the Lawrence case refer several times to Bowers v. Hardwick. Attorneys for the state argue that under the Hardwick decision, "sexual conduct between persons of the same sex is more 'immoral and unacceptable' than similar conduct occurring between persons of opposite sex."

Only three justices who were part of that ruling — Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and John Paul Stevens — remain on the court. Rehnquist and O'Connor voted with the majority; Stevens with the dissent.

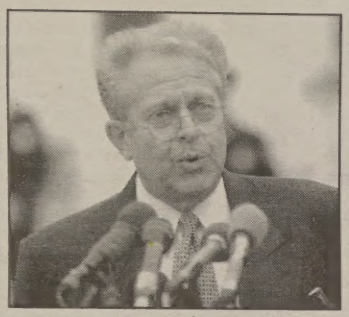
O'Connor has since joined the majority on another landmark gay rights case, Romer vs. Evans, which struck down an amendment to the Colorado constitution that prevented local governments there from enacting gay rights protections. That opinion was authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy, a Ronald Reagan appointee.

At least two justices who came to the court after Hardwick was decided, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, are likely to vote against overturning the Texas sodomy law. Two justices appointed by President Clinton, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, and one appointed by President George H.W. Bush, David Souter, have positive records on gay rights issues.

If Rehnquist and O'Connor maintain the positions they took in Hardwick, joined by Justices Scalia and Thomas, at least one other justice would still have to join them to form a majority. As was the case in the court's controversial abortion decisions, the crucial swing votes are likely to be Justice Kennedy, and to some degree, Justice O'Connor.



Ruth Harlow, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, said attorneys will argue that the Texas sodomy law violates both the right to privacy and equal protection rights provided in the U.S. Constitution.



Harvard Law School Professor **Laurence Tribe,** who argued against the state of Georgia in the landmark Bowers v. Hardwick case, said this week he is 'delighted' that the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the case challenging Texas' sodomy law. (AP)

Two lines of argument

Lambda Legal's Harlow said she was confident the court would accept either or both of the group's positions in the case.

"Basically what we think is correct are two very simple arguments: One is that Texas can't make certain behaviors criminal for one group of people and perfectly legal for another just because it doesn't like the first group, and that's a violation of equal protection," Harlow said.

"The right to privacy claim asks them to reconsider Bowers vs. Hardwick and, by their taking the whole case, they've at least indicated a willingness to listen to our argument as to why they should reverse this decision.

"We're arguing that Texas has stepped over a line and exceeded its ability to interfere in people's private lives when it starts criminalizing adult consensual behavior taking place in the home," she said. "Government really should be engaged in more important issues and not interfering in adult choices about sexuality."

Laurence H. Tribe, Tyler Professor of Constitutional Law at Harvard Law School, was among those who argued against the Georgia sodomy law in Bowers v. Hardwick. Tribe said this week he hopes the Supreme Court will overturn that decision with a ruling on the Texas case.

"I am delighted by the Supreme Court's decision to review the Texas sodomy statute, which I feel reasonably confident will be held unconstitutional, probably by a vote of 6-3," Tribe said. "When I argued Bowers v. Hardwick and lost by a single vote, I knew it was only a matter of a relatively few years before the court would see the issue in a more enlightened way.

"I fully expect the court to reject the cramped and parochial view of human liberty and privacy that underlay the Hardwick ruling," Tribe added. "Whether the court will ground its decision in liberty as such and in the principle that human freedom cannot be defined in terms of anatomical combinations, or in the principle that no one may be punished for an act that would be lawful if he or she were of the opposite sex, is harder to predict.

"In some ways, such a ruling might seem narrower than one based squarely on liberty, but in other ways such a ruling would be broader, which is a reason to suspect that it might not be forthcoming," he said.

Potentially complex effects

How far-reaching the court's decision may be will depend on which parts of Lambda's argument the justices accept or reject. But Harlow said that if the court strikes down the Texas law in any way, the effects will be felt beyond the Lone Star State.

"They could go two ways, depending on which claim they decide — in our favor, hopefully," she said. "The equal protection claim would directly affect just the four states that have a discriminatory rule for things like oral and anal sex. But that would still be a very important ruling even for people in those other states."

Currently, sodomy is defined as abnormal sex, in some states including anal and oral sex. The nine states that ban consensual sodomy for everyone are Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia. In addition, Texas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma punish only homosexual sodomy.

If the Supreme Court rules in Lambda's favor and agrees with its right to privacy argument, that ruling would affect all 13 states that still have sodomy laws.

Gay rights leaders say that all such laws harm gay men and lesbians in particular, even if they are not actively enforced.

"What's happening now is, even with neutral laws, they're being used exclusively against gay people," Harlow said.

Although laws such as the Texas sodomy statute allot misdemeanor punishments, Harlow noted that they are often invoked against gays in other contexts, especially child custody battles.

"Those are the situations where we see gay people being branded as criminals because of these laws and having that interfere with their ability to have equal opportunities in employment, and keep their relationships with their children, and so on," she said.

Liz Seaton, senior counsel for the Human Rights Campaign, the largest national gay political organization, pointed out other effects on gays convicted under sodomy laws.

"As a result of the convictions, neither [Lawrence nor Garner] can hold jobs in dozens of professions in Texas and may have to register as sex offenders if they move to some other states," Seaton said. "These laws are used to deny gay workers jobs, refuse lesbian mothers custody, oppose non-discrimination laws and block hate crime legislation.

"These laws are not benign as some might suggest, but have a tangible impact on the lives of individuals and on the entire community," she added.

Texas: 'The conduct is wrong'

States have argued that sodomy laws, some dating back more than 100 years, are intended to preserve public morals. The laws are rarely enforced.

In defending the Texas sodomy statute, attorneys contend that enforcement of the law is not a violation of equal protection and "has a rational basis" because the Texas legislature originated the statute.

William Delmore III, an assistant district attorney in Texas, said people who don't like the law should take it up with the Texas legislature, not the courts.

He said homosexual sodomy has been considered criminal behavior for centuries. The conduct "could not conceivably have achieved the status of a fundamental right in the brief period of 16 years" since the Supreme Court last reviewed it in the Hardwick case, Delmore wrote in the state's court papers.

Delmore said the Texas law does not just target gays. He said it also could be used for bisexuals and heterosexuals "who are tempted to engage in homosexual conduct." The law is part of Texas' "communal belief that the conduct is wrong and should be discouraged," he wrote in a filing.

Weighing in on the case this week, Texas Gov. Rick Perry expressed support for the existing Texas sodomy statute.

"I think our law is appropriate that we have on the books," Perry said.

In a brief supporting Texas, the California-based Pro Family Law Center said states should be given leeway to protect the public from the spread of diseases like AIDS.

Chris Crain and the Associated Press contributed.

Supreme Court issues order in Kan. case

On the same week that the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal challenging the Texas sodomy law, justices also issued an order in a Kansas gay rights case, possibly indicating they may hear arguments on that matter as well.

The court ordered the State of Kansas to file briefs in response to an appeal filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in Limon v. Kansas. The case challenges a Kansas law that provides more serious penalties for oral sex between teenagers of the same sex than penalties for teens of the opposite sex.

Under the Kansas law, if an older teen has oral sex with a teen between the ages of 14 to 16, it is considered statutory rape and the law provides a penalty of probation, so long as the two are of the opposite sex. For same-sex teen couples, probation is not an option.

The defendant, Matthew R. Limon, was 18 when he had consensual oral sex with a 14-year-old boy. Limon received a 17-year prison sentence for the offense.

Activists hope that the Supreme Court's request for a response brief from Kansas officials signals that the justices might agree to hear that case as well. In the Texas sodomy law challenge, attorneys for that state initially did not file a response brief, but were asked this summer to do so. That preceded the court's move this week to hear the case.

Penny Weaver

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ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

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Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. *Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have* had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- **Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- **Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- **have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- **have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, **it is very important to:**

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort *(hypericum perforatum)*, an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com or call 1-800-426-7644.

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national news

Anti-gay bias law passes despite objections of Orlando mayor

The Orlando City Council on Monday approved a measure banning anti-gay bias, despite a weeks-long contentious debate and opposition by Mayor **Glenda Hood**. (Photo by Phil Coale/AP)

ORLANDO, Fla. — Over the objection of Mayor Glenda Hood, the Orlando City Council voted 4-3 Monday to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, the Associated Press reported. Hood voted against the ordinance, saying it wasn't necessary because the city already was "inclusive." Hood's vote was widely seen as an effort by the third-term mayor to better-position herself for an appointment in the administrations of Gov. Jeb Bush or President Bush. But the mayor's spokesperson, Susan Blexrud, said Hood has never said publicly that a future appointment was her reason for voting against the measure, and she is "highly unlikely" to veto it. The ordinance adds sexual orientation to the city law banning discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Businesses that discriminate could be fined $500 per violation.

Trans may see new victory with Pa. hate crime law

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A week after its passage, Gov. Mark S. Schweiker has not decided whether to make Pennsylvania the 28th state to include sexual orientation in its hate-crimes law, and the fifth state to specifically protect transgendered people in hate crimes laws. A Schweiker spokesperson said last week that the legislation remains under review, the Associated Press reported. The governor has 30 days from Nov. 26, the date the bill gained final passage in the state legislature, to decide whether to sign it. Transgender activists have called 2002 a watershed year for passing legal protections based on gender identity. In California, the San Jose City Council voted unanimously Nov. 26 to expand the city's non-discrimination policy to include transgendered people. The Baltimore City Council passed a similar measure on Nov. 25, and the city commission in Key West, Fla., is currently considering such a policy. Boston, Philadelphia and New York City are among the biggest cities to approve transgender protections this year.

Mont. judge upholds benefits ban for same-sex partners

HELENA, Mont. — A Montana university system policy denying health insurance benefits for partners of gay employees is constitutional, a district judge ruled last week, the Associated Press reported. The policy is based on the marital status of employees, not on their sexual orientation, and that is a "reasonable and objective standard" for determining who qualifies for employment benefits, ruled Judge Thomas Honzel. Beth Brenneman, an attorney for the ACLU, said Nov. 24 the organization will appeal to the Montana Supreme Court on behalf of the two lesbian couples that filed the suit in February. Carol Snetsinger and Carla Grayson, employees of the University of Montana, sought benefits for their female partners. UM offers health insurance to employees, their spouses and children. Heterosexual couples who are not married, but file an affidavit of common law marriage, can also qualify. A lawyer for the Board of Regents said the state "always had confidence that our legal arguments were sound."

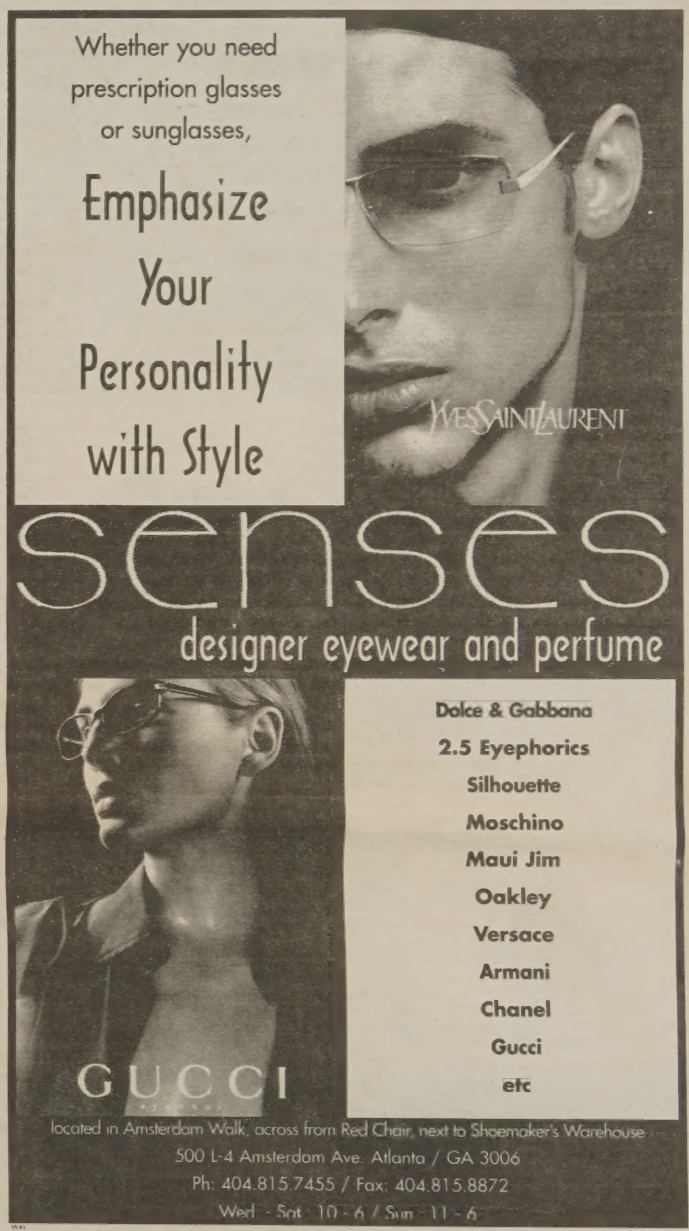
Ky. school district allows gay-straight alliance

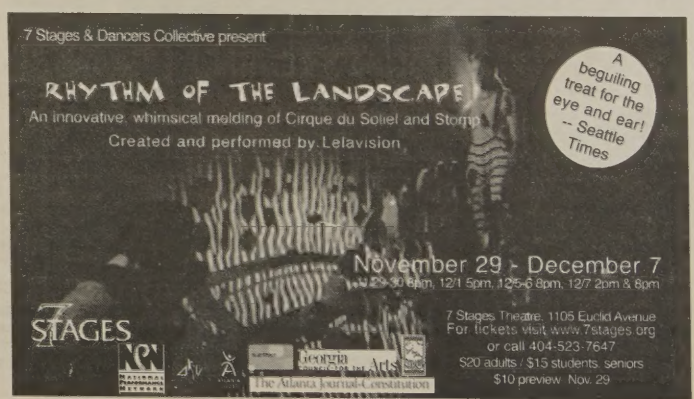
CANNONSBURG, Ky. — Boyd County School Superintendent Bill Capehart upheld a decision by a local high school to allow the Gay-Straight Alliance to meet on campus, according to the Associated Press. Capehart said the governing council at Boyd County High School made the right decision based on state and federal law. "Therefore, there is no option but to reaffirm and uphold the decision," he wrote in a letter to two ministers who oppose the club. Capehart said he will recommend that supporters and opponents of the group meet face-to-face to discuss their differences. Kaye King, a teacher and the alliance's adviser, said she is willing to meet with opponents. But "there is no room for compromise" on the group's existence, she said. A week after the Boyd County High council's vote to let the group meet before school hours, about half of the school's 974 students boycotted classes. That weekend, a community rally drew what organizers said was 2,300 people to protest the alliance.

Boy Scouts lose court battle in Berkeley

SAN FRANCISCO — A group affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America lost its legal bid Nov. 23 to continue to get free berthing at Berkeley Marina, according to the Associated Press. The city of Berkeley halted free berthing for the Sea Scouts in 1998 because of the scout's membership and leadership policies against gays. The scouts sued Berkeley and the San Francisco-based 1st District Court of Appeal said the scouts did not have a case. The city stopped free access after it passed a 1997 ordinance forbidding the city from subsidizing groups that discriminate. The scouts maintained that Berkeley's move, among other things, infringed on the group's free speech and association rights. The court said the scouts, regardless of whether they get free berthing, can continue to discriminate against gays. "Berkeley's actions have not required appellants to stop discriminating," the court said. The city still allows the scouts to berth at the city marina, but now charges $516 per month.

From staff and wire reports

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international news

Belgian lawmakers step closer to approving gay marriage

BRUSSELS — The Belgian Senate last week approved a bill allowing same-sex marriages, paving the way for the country to be only the second in Europe to do so, Agence France-Presse reported. The bill, which still has to be approved by the lower house, gives gay couples the same right as heterosexual ones, notably inheritance rights. But the new law will not allow gay couples to adopt children, and will consider the mother in a lesbian couple to be a single parent. "Mentalities have changed. There is no longer any reason not to open marriage to people of the same sex," Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt said last year, when he first launched the proposal. Some legislators applauded the move. "This law will end what some of the homosexual community consider a serious discrimination and should help fight homophobia," lawmaker Josy Dubie said.

Belgium Prime Minister **Guy Verhofstadt** said it's time for the country to open marriage to gay couples. (Photo by Virginia Mayo/AP)

HIV scare prompts Mexican town to ban cross-dressing

TECATE, Mexico — The City Council has approved a brief ordinance that may ban cross-dressing in this sleepy, colonial village, a move that has shocked some residents, like Ruben Obregon and Jose Alberto Villagomez, according to the Los Angeles Times. The one-sentence law, approved last month, translates: "Men dressed like women in public who are disturbing the peace can be cited for a lack of morals." The ordinance could impact Obregon and Villagomez, both hairstylists at Saidi's Salon just off the town square, who both cross-dress. Advocates for the cross-dressers say the law has had a silver lining, bringing attention to their issues as never before. To fight against the ordinance, Obregon and several friends formed the Rainbow Gay Pride Group, which now has a membership of about 40. The ordinance controversy started this spring when Mayor Juan Vargas said a cross-dressing man tested positive for HIV. "We don't want AIDS in Tecate," council member Cosme Cazares Burgueno told the Times. "The government has an obligation to protect its people. That's the reason we have to take these measures."

Yahoo! criticized by gays in U.K. over TV ad

LONDON — Gay civil rights group Stonewall has called on consumers to boycott companies that make offensive advertising after a TV commercial for Yahoo! had to be pulled off the air, the Guardian reported. The independent television commission suspended the ad after viewers complained it was homophobic and offensive. The commercial featured a naked bridegroom who had been tied to a tree in a stag night prank. He is shown being cruised from behind by a stereotypically camp-looking man, who is strolling in the park. A voiceover explains: "You can't trust the kindness of strangers." Stonewall officials balked. "It is for individuals, as well as groups like us, to make clear to the companies involved that this type of advertising is not doing anyone any favors," said Sacha Deshmukh, Stonewall's head of parliamentary affairs. Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper, the ad agency behind the controversial Yahoo! ad, said it didn't mean to offend anyone.

Bush praises fight against disease in World AIDS Day remarks

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Southern African countries marked World AIDS Day last Sunday with hopes that the region, which has the highest rate of HIV-positive people on the planet, can slow the spread of the disease, according to the Associated Press. There are 42 million people with HIV across the globe, with sub-Saharan Africa home to 75 percent of them, according to UNAIDS. Events were also held in Cuba, Brazil, Peru and several other countries. President Bush, in his World AIDS Day proclamation, praised groups that are working to combat AIDS and help the people who suffer from it. About 1 million Americans are infected with HIV. "By working together, we can provide hope and comfort to all those affected by this devastating disease," Bush said. Countries across Asia commemorated World AIDS Day with events to raise awareness of the disease amid warnings that the number of infected people in China and India, the world's two most populous nations, will reach epidemic levels.

Australian foster agencies pursue gays to mend shortage

SYDNEY — Same-sex and transgender couples are being actively targeted by foster care organizations in an attempt to find homes for thousands of disadvantaged children, the Sydney Morning Herald reported. Although Western Australia legalized gay adoptions earlier this year and Tasmania will sometime next year, same-sex couples in some places are still not able to adopt children. Leading foster care agency Barnardo's regularly advertises in a national lesbian magazine and other agencies across the country run fostering courses for gay couples. Mary Jane Beach, treasurer of the NSW Foster Care Association, said foster caring had deteriorated immensely in recent years. "Often for some kids, the best thing for them is to be with a couple who don't have children and they can get intensive one-on-one treatment," she said.

From staff and wire reports

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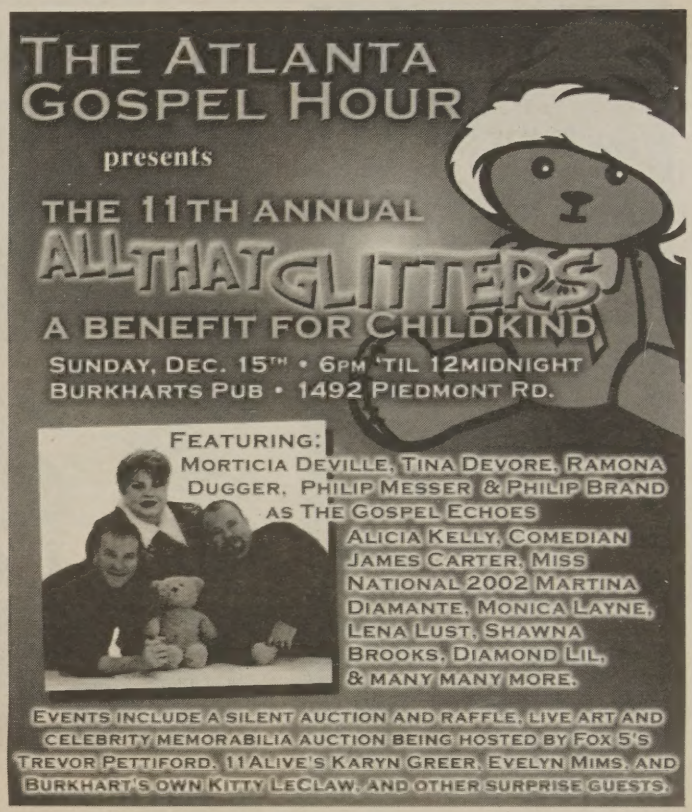
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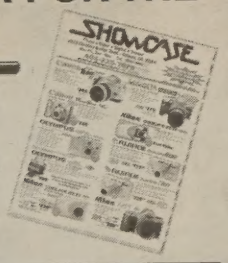

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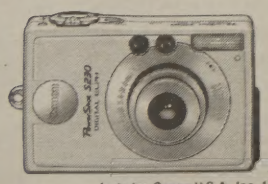

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national news

Cracker Barrel reverses stance on gay protections

Company joins Lockheed Martin in adding sexual orientation to employment policies

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Two companies long known for reluctance to spell out gay-friendly policies switched gears last month, moves applauded by gay shareholders and played down by corporate officials.

Folksy restaurant chain Cracker Barrel, which sparked a boycott after firing gay employees in 1991, abruptly changed its opposition to shareholder efforts promoting the addition of sexual orientation to its written non-discrimination policy by quietly adding the phrase during a board meeting Nov. 26.

Four days earlier, the nation's largest defense contractor, Lockheed Martin Corp. — which employs 7,000 people in its Cobb County facility — also reversed course by expanding its non-discrimination employment policy and pledging to begin offering domestic partner benefits to gay employees by mid-2003.

Both Fortune 1000 companies had been pressured by gay shareholders to adopt gay-inclusive employment policies, efforts that in recent years gained considerable support among fellow stockholders during annual corporate meetings.

"In the last five years, we have seen so much momentum," said Shelley Alpern, vice president of shareholder actions for the New York-based Equality Project, a coalition of investors that organizes gay-friendly shareholder proposals at several large companies, including Lockheed Martin and Cracker Barrel.

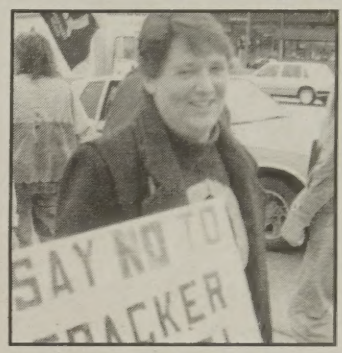
"A company that doesn't have the policy clearly stands out as not being on the ball, not bench-marking to its peers," she said.

At Cracker Barrel, a Lebanon, Tenn.-based company with 463 restaurants across 41 states, a majority of shareholders last week supported adding sexual orientation to the chain's employment policy, gay activists said. Company directors opposed the proposal before their annual shareholder meeting last month, but later softened their stance, approving the measure without a shareholder vote.

"It is a simple matter of listening to the shareholders," said Julie Davis, a company spokesperson. "The shareholder proposal had a lot of backing this year, substantially more than in years past. ... We listen to our shareholders."

The policy change went unnoticed until the Human Rights Campaign issued a press release Wednesday praising the company.

Davis said earlier this year that adding the phrase "sexual orientation" would make the company's employment policy "untenable. It would become pages and pages long, basically."



Cheryl Summerville, fired by Cracker Barrel in 1991 for being gay, said she is shocked the restaurant company last week expanded its employment non-discrimination statement to include sexual orientation.

Gay activists launched a boycott of Cracker Barrel in 1991 after 11 employees were handed pink slips that specifically listed "homosexuality" as the reason for their firing.

Cheryl Summerville, a lesbian who worked in a Douglasville, Ga., restaurant, and her supporters picketed local Cracker Barrel restaurants and purchased stock as a way of sparking activism from the inside, an effort often credited as launching gay shareholder activism in the 1990s.

Summerville, arrested three times during the protests, hasn't stepped inside a Cracker Barrel in eight years. Even with the company's new gay-friendly position, she said she hasn't experienced a change of heart about Cracker Barrel.

"I am shocked," Summerville, now circulation manager at Southern Voice, said about the company's policy change. "It's been so long I didn't think they would ever do it. It has come up every year, and I am really surprised. I just don't believe it."

At Lockheed, the chief executive, Vance D. Coffman, followed the recommendations of the company's executive council, which he impaneled this year to address diversity issues, and supported the expansion of its non-discrimination policy to include three new categories: sexual orientation, ancestry and family structure.

The company will also roll out domestic partner benefits for its 125,000 employees as soon as mid-2003, according to Meghan Mariman, a Lockheed Martin spokesperson.

In April, company directors asked shareholders to reject a proposal to expand its employment statement to include sexual orientation. The effort, led by a student at Swarthmore College and supported by the Equality Project, failed.

"I am surprised to hear that they have gone ahead and made this change because from the signals we were getting, they were pretty resistant," said Tom Krattenmaker, a Swarthmore spokesperson. "We are glad that they have had this change of heart."

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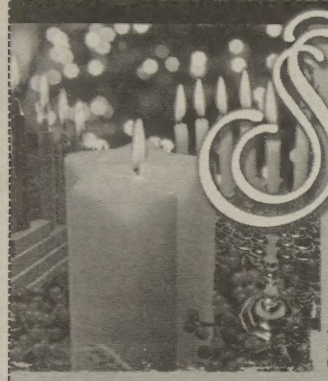

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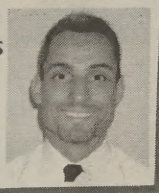

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Ala. man found guilty in gruesome anti-gay slaying

MOBILE, Ala. — A jury convicted a man of murder Tuesday in the stabbing death of a gay man who had holes bored in his head from a portable drill while passed out drunk, the Associated Press reported. James Talmadge West Jr., 37, claimed self-defense in the Aug. 17, 2001, slaying of 43-year-old Brian Bullock, saying Bullock had attempted to rape him at West's home. Sentencing was set for Jan. 30. West could get 20 years to life in prison. Defense attorney John Wayne Boone said West was forced into a desperate fight for survival against a drunken "homosexual" attack from Bullock. But Assistant District Attorney John Furman told the jury that whether Bullock was "homosexual, heterosexual or bisexual is not really an issue in this case." West mutilated Bullock with household tools, including a portable drill, which he pushed through Bullock's skull into the brain, according to testimony.

Family of slain gay man settles wrongful death suit

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — The family of a slain gay man recently settled a wrongful death lawsuit against his admitted killers, according to the Associated Press. J.R. Warren, 26, was beaten and then crushed under a car in July 2000 by two men who were later convicted of first-degree murder. Warren's parents filed the civil action in June, alleging that the killers inaccurately portrayed their son as a sexual predator. "He was not a predator. He was a victim," said Brenda Warren, the victim's mother. "This was all to set the record straight." At the time of the killing, authorities said one of the convicted teens initiated the attack in a drug- and alcohol-fueled rage, brought on by his belief that Warren told others of a long-standing sexual relationship the two shared. The amount of the financial settlement was not released.

The family of slain gay man **J.R. Warren** recently settled a wrongful death civil case against his convicted killers for an undisclosed sum. (Photo courtesy CNN)

Calif. man found guilty of sexually assaulting Marines

SAN DIEGO— A man was convicted of sexual assault for luring several Marines back to his condominium and then sexually abusing them after they passed out, according to the Associated Press. Amiro Columna, 47, was found guilty of the felony charges Nov. 27 and faces up to 12 years in prison at a Jan. 8 sentencing. Prosecutors said Columna got the Marines to his home in March 2001 by promising them alcohol and women. Two Marines, ages 19 and 23, testified they got drunk, lost consciousness and woke up to find Columna performing a sex act on them. "They went there expecting heterosexual fun, and it ended in a homosexual nightmare," prosecutor Patrick Espinoza Jr. told the jury. Columna was known for asking military men to his home. Officials at nearby Camp Pendleton warned new recruits to stay away from him, prosecutors said.

Texas man charged in two killings issued bond

EL PASO, Texas — A man arrested in the slaying of a woman while released on bond in the killing of a cross-dresser was issued a $1.25 million bond Nov. 27, according to the El Paso Times. Justen Grant Hall, 21, was expected to be transferred from a Northeastern Texas jail to El Paso this week. The second bond sparked protests from gay groups and the family of his alleged first victim, 28-year-old cross-dresser Arturo Diaz, who was shot in the back in April. Police suspect that the Diaz killing was motivated by gender identity bias. Hall was free on a $75,000 bond for Diaz's murder when he allegedly strangled Melanie Billhartz, 29. Gay activist Rob Knight said holding Hall without bond would send a message of zero tolerance for hate crimes. Hall "shouldn't have any bond. He proved he doesn't have any heart," said Lucy Diaz, the first victim's sister. Hall was arrested allegedly driving the car of Billhartz.

W. Va. high court affirms conviction of man in slaying

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A stack of photographs did not bias the jury that convicted a minister for the 1996 murder of his wife, the state Supreme Court unanimously concluded Nov. 27, according to the Associated Press. James Michael Flippo argued that photos of a male friend removing wet clothing made the jury believe he was gay and cheating on his wife. "The photographs, giving them their worst possible interpretation, do not remotely tend to cause such a belief," said the opinion written by Chief Justice Robin Davis. "These photographs show neither any nudity nor are they in any manner or fashion sexually explicit or suggestive." The jury found that Flippo lured Cheryl Jewell Flippo to an isolated cabin where he beat her to death with a piece of firewood. Prosecutors contended that Flippo killed his wife because she objected to his reckless spending and his relationship with Joel Boggess, the man in the photos. Flippo is serving a life sentence without parole.

From staff and wire reports

KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents in patients 6 months of age or older. KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.

Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

KALETRA must not be taken with certain drugs due to the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects. Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription and herbal preparations, you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which may cause death, have been reported in patients receiving KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. Your doctor may want to monitor your liver function. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity are: abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. Children most often reported diarrhea, rash, taste aversion, and vomiting.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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KALETRA™
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA™
(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?
KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halcion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Orap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Rythmol® (propafenone)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
  - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines *Mevacor®* (*lovastatin*) or *Zocor®* (*simvastatin*) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
  Phenobarbital
  Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
  Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
  These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- **Other Special Considerations:**
  KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.
- **If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:**
  Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is **not** complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breast-feeding:* Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- *If you have liver problems:* If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- *If you have diabetes:* Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- *If you have hemophilia:* Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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national news

FBI: Anti-gay hate crimes up last year

Report finds 1,393 incidents based on sexual orientation

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — The number of hate crimes reported by U.S. law enforcement agencies that were based on a victim's sexual orientation increased by 7.2 percent, from 1,299 in 2000 to 1,393 in 2001, according to the FBI's latest "Hate Crimes Statistics" report, which was released Nov. 25.

The report shows that the rise in gay-related hate crimes appears modest compared to a dramatic increase in non-Hispanic ethnicity and national origin based hate crimes, which rose from 354 in 2000 to 1,501 in 2001, an increase of more than 235 percent.

The non-Hispanic ethnicity/national origin category includes people of Middle Eastern origin or descent, who became targets of most of the hate crimes in this category, the FBI says, following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The FBI report shows that law enforcement agencies reported a total of 9,730 hate crime incidents in the U.S. in 2001, an increase of 20.6 percent over the 8,063 hate crime incidents reported in 2000.

Sexual orientation bias accounted for 14.3 percent of the total reported incidents. As it has in past years, the report shows that incidents based on racial bias represented the largest percentage of hate crime incidents in 2001: 44.9 percent.

Hate crimes based on ethnicity/national origin bias, including Hispanics, was the second highest category at 21.6 percent, followed by religious bias with 18.8 percent, sexual orientation and disability related bias with 0.3 percent.

The FBI report shows that most sexual orientation-based hate crimes involved gay men as victims. Of the 1,393 gay incidents in 2001, 980 were against gay men, 205 were against lesbians, 173 were against "homosexuals" whose gender was not identified, 18 targeted heterosexuals, and 17 were against bisexuals, the report states.

The gay-related incidents involved a total of 1,592 criminal offenses, 1,664 victims, and 1,580 known offenders, according to the report.

Among the known offenders linked to sexual orientation incidents, 804 were white, 203 were black, five were Native American, eight were Asian/Pacific Islander, 31 were of multiple races and 85 were of an unknown race, the report said.

Also similar to past years, the most frequently reported crime based on sexual orientation was listed as intimidation in 462 cases. Following close behind were 460 simple assaults, 203 aggravated assaults, one forcible rape and one murder or manslaughter.

> 'Violence still remains a constant threat that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans face.'
>
> — Winnie Stachelberg, Human Rights Campaign

In the category of crimes against property, the most prevalent crimes based on a victim's sexual orientation were 419 incidents of "destruction/damage/vandalism," followed by 50 robberies, 18 larceny thefts, 17 burglaries and two motor vehicle thefts.

The report shows that the most common location for anti-gay hate crimes was a victim's residence or home with 465 incidents. Other locations include 315 street incidents, 163 school campuses, 101 parking lots or garages and a 48 bars or nightclubs.

In a section on the number of hate crimes in individual states, the report shows there were nine anti-gay hate crimes reported in Georgia compared to 11 reported in 2000.

Gay organizations monitoring anti-gay hate crimes expressed concern that the annual Hate Crime Statistics Report grossly underreports the number of incidents in the U.S.

But groups like the New York based National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs do not fault the FBI, which has worked hard to compile data on such crimes, officials said.

The problem lies with local and state law enforcement agencies that often fail to compile information on hate crimes, especially hate crimes based on sexual orientation, these groups say.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 calls on the FBI to encourage local and state law enforcement agencies to collect data on hate crimes, but the act does not require law enforcement agencies to do so, making the information gathering process a voluntary endeavor.

"While we are making enormous progress on many fronts, violence still remains a constant threat that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans face," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay political group.

"The rise in hate crimes highlights why we need to pass federal legislation to combat this disturbing trend."

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national news

Psychiatric group adopts pro-gay adoption statement

Two other national medical groups recently enacted similar positions

By RHONDA SMITH

WASHINGTON—The American Psychiatric Association's Board of Trustees approved a position statement last week supporting adoption and co-parenting of children by gay couples.

The statement says the 37,000-member organization "supports initiatives which allow same-sex couples to adopt and co-parent children and supports all the associated legal rights, benefits and responsibilities which arise from such initiatives."

"It's more evidence that mainstream organizations support the idea of gay and lesbian families and changing the law to make it easier for gay, lesbian and bisexual couples to adopt children," said Dan Hicks, a member of the APA Committee on Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Issues.

The decision follows similar actions earlier this year by the American Psychoanalytic Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

"The whole trend of what has happened this year is completely unprecedented," said Lisa Bennett, deputy director for the Human Rights Campaign FamilyNet Project, which monitors gay family issues nationwide.

"When groups like this come forward, I think the general public has to stop and take notice," she said.

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued a technical report in February that cites a growing body of scientific studies that show children with one or two gay parents fare as well as children whose parents are heterosexual.

"Children's optimal development seems to be influenced more by the nature of the relationships and interactions within the family unit than by the particular structural form it takes," the report states.

The APA's Committee on Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Issues drafted the position statement, and the organization's Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities supported it, officials said.

"Numerous studies over the last three decades consistently demonstrate that children raised by gay or lesbian parents exhibit the same level of emotional, cognitive, social and sexual functioning as children raised by heterosexual parents," supporters of the position statement said in related documents. "This research indicates that optimal development for children is based not on the sexual orientation of the parents but on stable attachments to committed and nurturing adults."

The New York Times reported Nov. 29 that the Philadelphia-based American Law Institute, an influential organization of judges, lawyers and legal scholars, recently recommended broad changes in family law in a comprehensive report that in part says a parent's sexual orientation should not be a factor in child custody decisions

(Please see story, page 15).

Eight states and Washington, D.C., approve second-parent adoptions for gay and lesbian couples either by statute or state appellate court rulings, though not according to HRC.

Gay parents in 19 other states, including Georgia, have been granted second-parent adoptions at the trial court level in certain counties, Bennett said.

The American Academy of Family Physicians, which represents 93,500 medical doctors and students nationwide, adopted a gay-supportive policy statement in October. It callsfor a policy and support of "legislation which promotes a safe and nurturing environment, including psychological and legal security for all children, including those of adoptive parents, regardless of the parents' sexual orientation."

In May, the 3,000-member American Psychoanalytic Association, a New York City-based professional organization for psychoanalysts, adopted its position statement on gay and lesbian parenting. It says the evaluation of an individual or couple as committed, nurturing and competent parents should be determined without prejudice regarding sexual orientation.

The 6,500-member American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry approved a gay-supportive policy statement in 1999. It notes that lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals historically have faced more rigorous scrutiny than heterosexuals regarding their rights to be or become parents.

The 155,000-member American Psychological Association adopted its gay-supportive position statement on child custody or placement in 1976, three years after announcing that homosexuality is not a mental disorder.

Breaking the ice

Gay hockey league chips away at 'last Caucasian hetero male sport'

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

The ever-growing sect of gay sports in Atlanta has a relatively recent addition on the ice rink, and no, it is not figure skating.

One man's ice vision resulted in Gay Hockey Atlanta, a growing hockey club with one team currently: the Lizard Kings.

GHA started when Stace Duvall, its director, ran an ad in Southern Voice "to find some people to go to stick time with," he said.

Duvall, tired of being in the locker room by himself feeling uncomfortable as the lone gay man, wanted to find some buddies to enjoy hockey, he said.

Soon, GHA formed, calling its sole burgeoning team the "Flames." But GHA did not have enough players to field its own independent team, so it decided to merge with a straight team, adopt its name (the Lizard Kings) and compete in the 2001-2002 winter season in Duluth.

"We sucked," Duvall said. "We spent half the season with the two halves of the team trying to learn how to deal with each other."

But the discord had nothing to do with sexual orientation, because the Flames half of the team didn't initially tell the other half that they were gay.

"We weren't exactly sure how to totally come out on the ice without having a major impact on the other half of the team," Duvall said.

While playing games as the Lizard Kings in a straight league, GHA held separate meetings. Duvall and members decided to hold a fundraiser selling tickets for a Thrashers game, with the agreement that if GHA sold a certain number of tickets, their team would get to play a game at Phillips Arena after the Thrashers played.

The Jan. 23 game date was dubbed "Pride Night 2002," and the Flames half of the Lizard Kings notified their teammates that they would be playing under the GHA banner, Duvall said.

Although the Lizard Kings got to play after the Thrashers, Duvall was not completely satisfied with the first-ever Thrasher Pride Night.

"The Thrashers Disneyed it," he said. "They put up on the scoreboard 'GHA Pride Night,' but they never did say what GHA stood for. Hockey is the last Caucasian hetero-male sport that there is, and they weren't quite sure how that audience was going to react."

A year later, GHA revamped by moving to a different rink, joining a new, more open league (the Polardrome Hockey Club), and holding a summer training session.

For this winter season, GHA kept the Lizard Kings name and includes one woman, several gay men, a pre-op transgendered woman and three straight men, Duvall said.

Lisa Majeski, the team's lone biological female member.

"I like the diversity because you can be straight, you can be gay, you can be transsexual — there is no animosity there," Lisa Majeski said.

The strongest trait the team has, according to both Majeski and Lizard Kings coach Paul Turner, is the Kings' strong bond.

Turner ranks the team's goal tending and defensive core below the powerful team spirit his team demonstrates and attributes its 4-4 record this season to the rigor of summer practices.

"We had people who could literally barely stand on skates. Now, they're skating on a line, making good shots and taking pucks away from people," Turner said.

The team hopes to make playoffs this year, and plans on organizing a travelling team to compete against gay teams in other cities like New York, Chicago and Toronto.

Pride Night 2003 takes place on Jan. 23 at Phillips Arena after the Thrashers game against the Ottawa Senators.

The **Lizard Kings**, Atlanta's gay hockey team, stand at 4-4 this season with seven games to go until the playoffs. Last season, the team was winless. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

MORE INFO
Gay Hockey Atlanta
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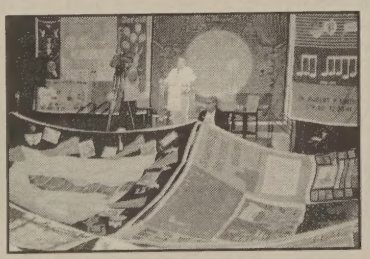
NAMES Project dedicates new office, quilt panels

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

The National NAMES Project Foundation moved headquarters from its birthplace in San Francisco to Atlanta nearly two years ago, but the new headquarters was officially dedicated Monday, the day after World AIDS Day.

The NAMES Project, which oversees the AIDS Memorial Quilt and its 80,000 panels commemorating the lives of people lost to AIDS, relocated in April 2001 and has been preparing the new 15,000-square-foot site on Krog Street to house the quilt and the NAMES Project offices since the move.

Speakers at the ceremony included U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.); Cleve Jones, founder of the AIDS Memorial Quilt; Dr. Adewale Troutman, director of the Fulton County Department of Health & Wellness; and Julie Rhoad, executive director of the NAMES Project Foundation.



Cleve Jones, founder of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, read aloud the names of those lost to AIDS, as several people unfolded new panels honoring people who died of the disease. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

MORE INFO
National NAMES Project Foundation
101 Krog St.
404-688-5500
www.aidsquilt.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR, **Page 24** COMMUNITY NEWS, **Page 25** OCCASIONS, **Page 60**

notes

The **Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus** presents 'Winter Muses' at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (1790 Lavista Road) on Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. and at 3 p.m. on Dec. 8 at the Georgia Tech Student Ballroom. $17 per adult, $13 for students and seniors. www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/1571

SATURDAY DEC. 7

DINING FOR CHARITY: **Blue Trout** hops on the bandwagon to support the CHRIS Rainbow Home in its fund-raising efforts by donating a percentage of the day's proceeds to the facility for homeless gay youth. 554 Piedmont Ave. 404-685-9575 or www.eatbluetrout.com

MONDAY DEC. 9

VIDEO & RAP NIGHT: **Black & White Men Together** hosts a monthly video night at 7:30 p.m. to view **'Holiday Heart,'** a film by Robert Townsend about a church-loving, drag queen with a heart of gold. Private home. 404-892-BWMT or http://geocities.com/bwmtatlanta

WEDNESDAY DEC. 11

HOLIDAY AUCTION: The **Greater Atlanta Business Coalition**, Atlanta's gay and lesbian Chamber of Commerce, hosts a silent auction for CHRIS Rainbow Home as its annual December **Holiday Party** from 6-7:30 p.m. at Decatur First Bank. Auction items include trips to the 2003 Gay Day at Disney World. 1120 Commerce Dr., Decatur. www.gabc.net

FRIDAY DEC. 13

GAY OUTDOORS: The Wilderness Network of Georgia, a gay men's outdoors group, holds its quarterly **potluck and planning meeting** to discuss upcoming camping and hiking trips at 6:30 p.m. in Oakhurst Baptist Church. 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur. www.wildnetga.org or 404-378-2504

local news

Meals program offers nourishment, nurturing

Project Open Hand provides hot food, other services to PWAs

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

Danny Holt stops by Project Open Hand once a week to pick up a grocery bag that he says is crucial to his survival. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Despite public perception that the number of people affected by AIDS is "leveling off," Project Open Hand, an organization providing food to people living with HIV/AIDS, has "more clients than its ever had," said Tanya Johnson, director of development at Project Open Hand.

"In the past two years, we've seen an increase in 23 percent of clients each year," Johnson said.

The group currently provides nutritional services to 870 people living with HIV/AIDS — more than twice the number of people served in 1996, she said. The agency also serves homebound senior citizens and people with other critical illnesses.

"The perception is that people don't need a lot of the services that AIDS service organizations provide when in fact our services are becoming more and more necessary," Johnson said.

Johnson attributed public misconception to both a lack of AIDS visibility and a misrepresentation of the face of AIDS.

"The public just doesn't see the people who are very sick in the community," she said. "And in the ads for HIV meds, the people look so vibrant and healthy and happy when in fact the meds cause nausea, diarrhea and fatigue."

Project Open Hand's services are vital to their health and well-being, and continued financial support is crucial, Johnson said.

Danny Holt, a Project Open Hand client, attested to the necessity of the organization in his daily life.

"To me, it is a very important agency, and I don't think with my income, after paying my bills, I don't think I could make it," Holt said. "They touch and help a lot of clients that really need the help that are in the same situation as I am, and I feel that they are giving a gift for us to keep surviving and to live a more productive life."

Holt is not only a Project Open Hand client. He also volunteers as often as he can to deliver meals to people unable to leave home.

HELPING OUT

Editor's note: Every week throughout the holiday season, Southern Voice highlights a charity organization that lends a hand to gay people and embodies the spirit of giving by Helping Out. E-mail editor@sovo.com with suggestions for future profiles.

Holt worked in AIDS service even before he was diagnosed with the disease on June 17, 1992.

"Before I was diagnosed, I was taking care of my best friend's brother and his partner in Birmingham, Ala.," he said.

Holt cooked, cleaned, washed clothes, distributed medications and took the men to the doctor for about three years until they passed away in 1991, he said.

Both men died before Holt found out he is HIV-positive. After his diagnosis, Holt moved to Arizona to live near his parents and continued working with PWAs.

In Arizona, he volunteered with several AIDS organizations, including AIDS Phoenix, where he helped start a food pantry program. AIDS Phoenix also certified Holt in HIV/AIDS education, which came in handy when he moved to Atlanta and volunteered with AID Atlanta on the speaker's bureau to tell his story.

Holt became a client of Atlanta's Project Open Hand in February 2000, when his caseworker at AID Atlanta connected him to Johnson, who worked in client services at that time.

"Tanya was a very supportive person for me," he said. "If I need anything, all I have to do is call her and she'll call me back without any problem."

The philosophy at Project Open Hand is to do everything possible to meet the needs of the entire client base, according to Johnson.

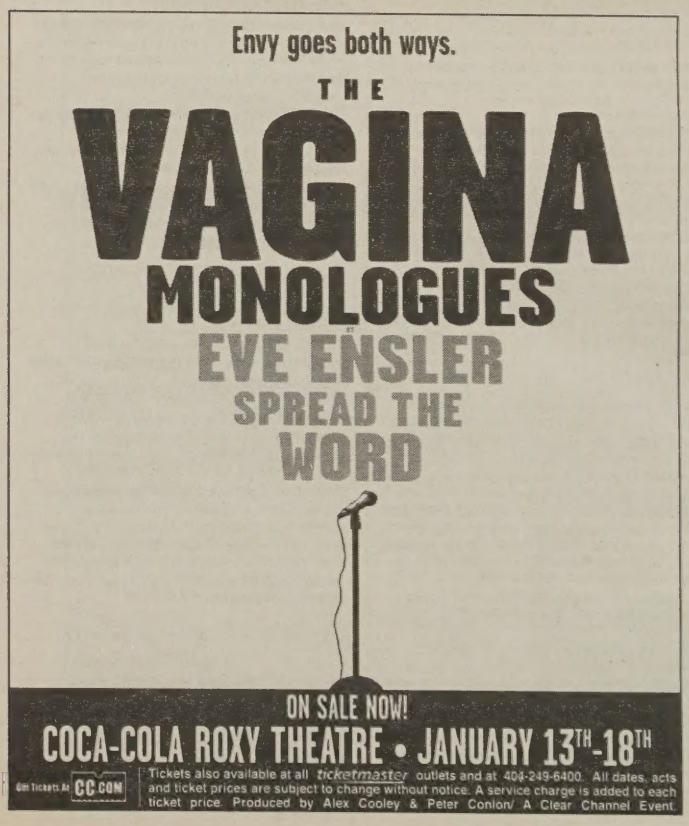
"The answer we do not want to give them is, 'We don't do that here.' That is not an acceptable answer for us," she said.

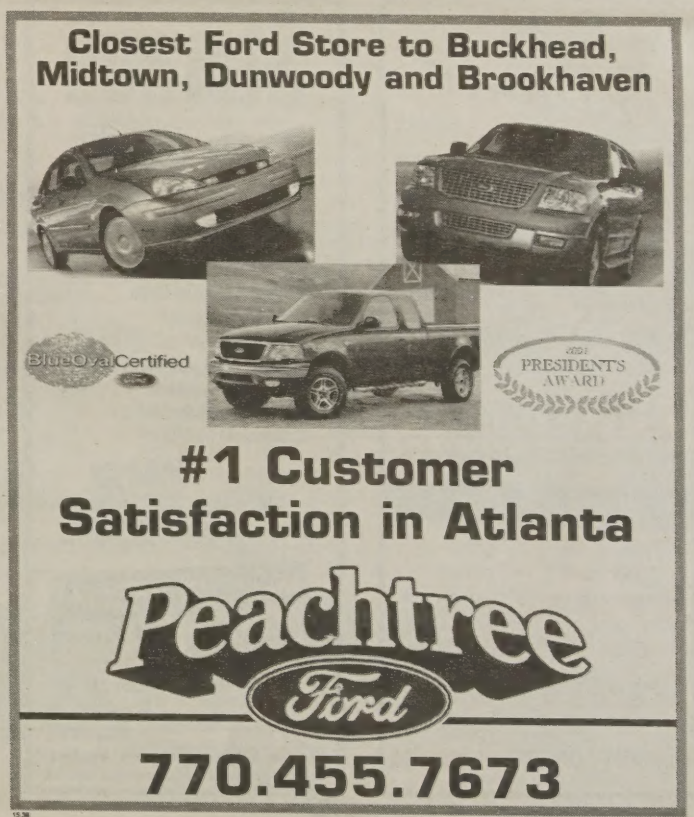
Project Open Hand runs three programs for critically ill people, their dependent children and homebound seniors who do not qualify for other meal programs: the prepared meals program, the pantry program and the dependent children program.

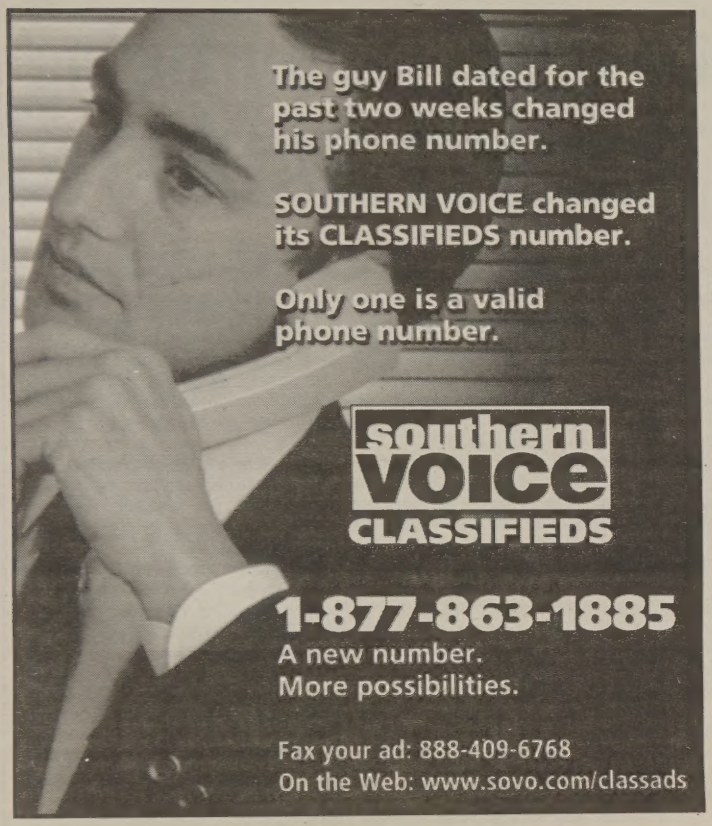
This holiday season, Project Open Hand is exercising its above-and-beyond philosophy, providing Christmas gifts to clients' children, 95 percent of whom live below poverty level, Johnson said.

MORE INFO

Project Open Hand
176 Ottley Drive
404-876-8089
www.projectopenhand.org


Envy goes both ways.
THE
VAGINA
MONOLOGUES
EVE ENSLER
SPREAD THE
WORD
ON SALE NOW!
COCA-COLA ROXY THEATRE • JANUARY 13TH-18TH
Get Tickets At CC.COM
Tickets also available at all ticketmaster outlets and at 404-249-6400. All dates, acts and ticket prices are subject to change without notice. A service charge is added to each ticket price. Produced by Alex Cooley & Peter Conlon/ A Clear Channel Event




The guy Bill dated for the past two weeks changed his phone number.
SOUTHERN VOICE changed its CLASSIFIEDS number.
Only one is a valid phone number.
southern VOICE
CLASSIFIEDS
1-877-863-1885
A new number.
More possibilities.
Fax your ad: 888-409-6768
On the Web: www.sovo.com/classads

community calendar

ATHENS

SATURDAY DEC. 7

GLBT TEEN GROUP. 2 pm. Presbyterian Student Center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net

MONDAY DEC. 9

LAMBDA ALLIANCE. 7 pm. UGA's LGBT student organization. Study Break. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. 706-583-8297 or www.uga.edu/lambda

ATLANTA

SATURDAY DEC. 7

ADOPTION INFORMATION SESSION. 9:30 am.-1:30 pm. Independent Adoption Center, 3774 LaVista Rd. Suite 100, Tucker, GA 404-321-6900

ARTISTS MARKET. 10 am.-3 pm. Midtown Promenade, 931 Monroe Dr. 770-913-3978

ATLANTA GIRTH & MIRTH. 9 pm. Social activities for large men and their admirers. The Eagle, 306 Ponce de Leon. 770-663-7041

ATLANTA PRIME-TIMERS. 3 pm. Social group for older gay and bisexual men, 40+. Ponce de Leon Library. 770-441-5573 or ww.primetimers.org/atlanta

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION OPEN PLAY. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER. 7:30 pm. Potluck dinner. 404-892-2968 or http://geocities.com/bwmtatlanta

FRONT RUNNERS. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

GEORGIA FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S LEAGUE. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

HEPATITIS VACCINATIONS. 10 am.-2 pm. $19 at Ansley Mall, 1544 Piedmont Ave. AID Atlanta, 404-870-7763

HOTLANTA BASKETBALL. Men at 11:30 am. Women at 2 pm., New association, all skill levels welcome. Atlbasketball@aol.com

RAINBOW HOME BENEFIT. All day. Blue Trout Restaurant. 554 Piedmont Ave. www.eatbluetrout.com or 404-685-9575

WINTER MUSES. 8 pm. Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Tickets at Charis, Outwrite and Brushstrokes. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

SUNDAY DEC. 8

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 11 am. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. 4 pm. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard Ave. Decatur, 404-370-0920

GEN-X BEARS. International network of younger bears providing friendship and support to ages 18-35, but open to all. 404-635-9344, gagenx@genxbears.org. www.genxbears.org/atlanta

PFLAG RIVERDALE/METRO SOUTH. 3 pm. Metro South Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays at the Southern Regional Medical Center (Education Wing). Everyone welcome. 404-366-3675 or 404-370-7316. deejaymrrw@aol.com

POTLUCK SOCIALS FOR N GA RESIDENTS. Different location each month. 706-864-3229

SECOND SUNDAY OF ATLANTA. 6-8:30 pm. Discussion group for gay, same gender loving, bisexual, straight, transgendered men of African descent. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

WINTER MUSES. 3 pm. Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus at Georgia Tech Student Ballroom. Tickets at Charis, Outwrite and Brushstrokes. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

MONDAY DEC. 9

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER. 7:30 pm. Video & rap night. 404-892-2968 or http://geocities.com/bwmtatlanta

GRRL GROUP. 6:30 – 8 p.m. Ages 13-17. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

HOTLANTA SQUARES. High energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 404—432-1809 or hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

KIKI IDENTIFYING LESBIAN GROUP. 6:30 p.m. For women who play the range of sexuality, from butch to femme. The Center. 159 Ralph McGill. 404-523-7500

LAVENDER LIGHT BOOK CLUB. 7:30-9:30 pm. Borders Snellville, 1929 Scenic Highway. 404-874-8294

TUESDAY DEC. 10

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Survivors support group. 6:30 pm. 404-688-2524

ATLANTA LESBIAN LIFESTYLES. 7 pm. For women who enjoy the company of other women. My Sisters' Room. www.belladona.org

ATLANTA OUTWORLDERS. 7 p.m. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amsterdam Ave. for "Buffy" at 8 p.m. 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 pm. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

BISEXUAL WOMEN. 6:30 p.m. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

FRONT RUNNERS RUN/WALK. 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

WEDNESDAY DEC. 11

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Bereavement Group, 7 pm. 404-688-2524

FRONT RUNNERS. 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

GAY FATHERS OF ATLANTA. 7:30 pm. All are welcome. Atlanta-Fulton Library, 980 Ponce de Leon. 404-342-6451

HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE RITUAL. 7 pm. Led by Sister Margaret McAnoy at ALCI to honor lost loved ones. 1530 DeKalb Ave, Suite A. 404-688-2524 or www.alci.org

RAINBOW HOME TEAS. Continental breakfast, 7:45 am.-8:30 am. Afternoon tea, 5:45 pm.-6:30 pm. RSVP by Tuesday, 3 pm. 404-486-9034, x104.

TEEN GROUP. Teen support group at YouthPride (ages 13-18), 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

YOUNG ADULT GROUP. Group for ages 18-24 at YouthPride, 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

THURSDAY DEC. 12

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS. Rehearsals 7:30 – 10 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Rd. Atlanta, GA 30329. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 p.m. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

ATLANTA WOMEN'S RUGBY. Practice 7-9 pm. Matches on Saturdays, no experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

BOYTALK. 6:30-8 pm. Discussion group for GBTQ youth 18-24. At YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620.

CLITERATI. Grrls' spoken word open mic. 8 p.m. Tower II, Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-687-9807, Tankgrrl10@hotmail.com

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 7 pm. Partner dance lessons in salsa, swing, waltz, and more. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. $10. 404-876-3950

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS. 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. ajones@mindspring.com

LESBIAN AVENGERS. 7:30 pm. Weekly meeting of Atlanta chapter, open to all ages & gender identities. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-978-1262 ext. 7744, or lesbianavengers@onebox.com

LGBT BOOK GROUP. Outwrite Bookstore, 7:30 pm. 404-872-0726. rambook@aol.com.

LONG TERM SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP. 7:30-9 pm. Must pre-register. Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396, ext. 28

GUYTALK. 7 pm. For gay & bisexual men 18-24. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

SAFE HARBOR. 7:30 p.m. Christian fellowship and bible study for gay men and lesbians. 770-717-9971 or404-622-8561

WOMYN'S GROUP. Ages 18-24 at YouthPride. 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

FRIDAY DEC. 13

THE AGENDA Midnight. Gay Television. People TV Cable Channel 24. www.herounit.com

ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND. 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 7:30 pm. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

FOURTH TUESDAY. 6:30 pm. Happy hour at the Red Chair. www.fourthtuesday.org

HEPATITIS VACCINATIONS. 9:30 pm.-12 am. $19 at Ansley Mall, 1544 Piedmont Ave. AID Atlanta, 404-870-7763

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

INTEGRITY/ATLANTA. 7 pm. Episcopal group of gays, lesbians, and transgendered persons. Meal served. All Saints' Episcopal, North Ave. at West Pechtree St. 770-642-3183

WOMEN WRITERS WORKSHOP. 8 pm. Featuring Letta Neely at Charis. 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com,** call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Christopher Seely. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance

letters

Bars are wrong police priority

To the Editor:

When the Atlanta Police Department finishes collecting the low-hanging fruit at the Metro and Backstreet ("Bar owners charge police with 'ambush,' news, Nov. 22), perhaps they could walk the few short blocks to Ninth Street and Argonne Avenue. My apartment building there has been burgled three times in three months and tenants' cars have been broken into as well.

After making Midtown safe for all, they could then visit my street in Castleberry Hills, where crack addicts and drug dealers are part of the streetscape. They might also be able to help me solve the mystery of tuberculin syringes I keep finding on the sidealk in front of my loft.

MICHAEL BOYKIN
Atlanta

AIDS fight shouldn't be quid pro quo

To the Editor:

I cannot properly convey how outraged I am at Chris Crain's editorial on the AIDS fight overseas. ("It's not our fight," Nov. 29).

To be blunt, the commentary is an exhibition of shallow callousness. We in the lesbian and gay community have to be above the petty attitude that because we feel other people who are suffering and struggling don't give us the attention we want, we are justified in thumbing our nose at them and matching their supposed insularity.

Where, after all, is the obligation of our activists and media spokespersons to take the moral high ground?

The article does betray a frankness that was absent in the early 1980s when white-controlled AIDS organization ignored the spread of HIV in people of color communities in the United States until leaders in these communities literally screamed for a share of the money and attention that was being devoted to organizations focused on serving the nation's white gay communities.

Then, no one was so gauche as to say that the people in those "other" communities were "not our fight," even if that's what they believed. Not so this time, since the people in those "other" communities happen to be Africans, Indians, Chinese or eastern Europeans.

We should feel extraordinarily blessed that even with the indignities we have to experience in the United States, they pale in comparison to what people with AIDS experience almost anywhere else in the world.

I have been HIV-positive for 17 years, and I am as healthy and active as my friends who are HIV-negative. That is because I live in a country where, even if without much money, I can get access to drugs that keep the virus at bay and thus keep me alive. I would give anything to see my brothers and sisters in Third World countries with HIV to have the same chance at life that I have had. That's what we all should wish for.

If those of us who live in relative comfort and privilege are not willing to make it our business to advocate for, and even sacrifice for, those who do not have, we will all lose.

ISAIAH J. POOLE
State College, Pa.

TV distorts life for transsexuals

To the Editor:

The Discovery Channel recently aired a show on male to female (M-to-F) transsexuals. The program was somewhat informative but glossed over many important facts and avoided the deeper, sadder truths of M-to-F transition. However, it was refreshing to see something other than the usual media mistreatment and abuse of transgender people.

The Discovery Channel program erred in the social implications and the reality for the majority of transsexuals. The show depicted the transition of several transsexuals. All three subjects were enjoying a relatively easy transition.

What Discovery failed to touch on is that most transsexuals suffer greatly, both before transition and because of transition. Very few transition this easily, and for the majority, it is transition or die.

The majority of late transitioning transsexuals loses their jobs, families, homes, social respectability, and are not welcome at church. Most become unemployable, undesirable, social outcasts. Many are victims of hate crimes.

Almost all transsexuals experience bigotry and hateful treatment, especially by the media and law. For the most part it is legal to discriminate against transsexuals in housing and employment. Many teen suicides are induced by gender dysphasia. Certainly most transsexuals don't fit in as children and bear the brunt of bully attacks.

The Discovery Channel also failed to mention the huge body of evidence that that transsexualism is not a choice and is much more likely a biological condition. The truth is that no one would choose to be transsexual. Living as a human paradox is a nightmare of epic pain, sadness and hardship.

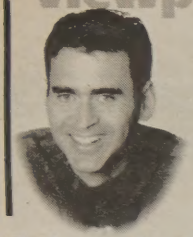
RACHEL THOMPSON
Bethlehem, Pa.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by eric orner

Laundrateria
You really want me to come?
Why wouldn't I?
Cuz, I dunno. What'r we starting? Y'know?
Maybe something too complicated.. I mean, you live in Atlanta.
Something wrong with Atlanta?
Yeh. It's 600 miles from me
I'm inviting you for a weekend, not a wedding.
Howabout the 20th?
Lemme call you back...
...I gotta put in more softner.
Okay. I'm comin'
Comin' on a midnite train ta Georgia.
That's LEAVIN', Gladys, Leavin' on a midnite train...
You should fly though. We'd have more time
Right. I wuz being a wise ass.
Well, just so long as you gotta cute ass. So it's agreed? the 20th?
Agreed.
Oh, wait. My mom's Xmas party is that weekend.
Well, Give you a chance to meet the folks..

viewpoint MICHEAL ALVEAR



Hours spent obsessing in front of a mirror are followed by hours spent obsessing at the bars. Is it the **unibrow or curls** that keep me single?

Meet the gay Bridge Jones

THINK BRIDGET JONES WAS NEUROTIC? Please. You've seen her diary. Take a look at mine:

Hours obsessing about meeting Mr. Right: Four. Hours obsessing about Mr. Tonight: Two. Anxiety Level: Breaking through earth's gravitational pull.

10:05 p.m. All right. That's it. I refuse to spend another goddamn minute in front of this mirror. Look, I know I'm no Greek God, but I'm not half bad. Shiny green eyes, jet black hair. But, ugh, those curls, tight against my head. I'll never meet anybody worthwhile with curly hair. Worthy people want hair that moves when you turn your head.

I don't understand why I'm always alone. I'm 6-foot-2, got a 32-inch waist, abs to die for, and yet... Whoa, whoa, whoa. How'd that get in there? I don't have washboard abs, who am I kidding?

All right, so you can't grate a block of Parmesan on my stomach. Big deal. But it is flat. And it's not like if I don't sort of turn and tuck at the same time you can't make out my stomach muscles. Which I do every chance I get at pool parties.

Anyway, here's the bottom line: I'm not "hot." I know it. I'm, I don't know, *warm*.

10:15 p.m. Shit! This is ridiculous. I'm just stalling. I'm late and Gary's outside honking the horn. I hate the bars. Why do I keep going? I loathe how shallow the gay world is, but here I am primping for it.

Listen to me like I don't know why I drag my ass to the bars three nights a week. All right, four. OK, five. Because I have one thought banging around my brain all day: "Maybe I'll meet somebody tonight."

I'm pathetic. Pathetically late, too. Oh, screw Gary; I've waited plenty for him. I'm telling you if I had straight hair I'd get laid more often. I gotta get rid of the curls, straighten my hair and make it move in slow motion.

Of course, Gary thinks I can't hook a boyfriend because of my "eyebrow." Refuses to use the plural form of the word. Comes at me with tweezers all the time. Wants to pluck the thin part where they meet. I thought best friends were supposed to accept you exactly the way you are?

Why am I obsessing so much about how I look? Most people would rank me an "8" on a scale of one to 10. OK, a "7." All right, a "6."

No, I'm probably a "7.5" because when I take home "5s" or "6s," I feel like I'm slumming. You know, the way the "9s" and "10s" feel when I get them drunk enough to go home with me.

God, if the gay world is three feet deep I can't be more than a foot and half.

10:25 p.m. Gary's at the door. Mad that I made him wait. I calm him with a shot of Absolut Citron. He's back to his playful mode but his gaze creeps up, like it usually does, to my eyebrow.

"Stop it," I said.

"Come on, let me pluck it."

"No."

"I'm telling you, it's the reason you don't have a boyfriend."

2 a.m. Gary just pushed me away because I was apparently jamming his cruising mojo. "Can't you see I'm working here?" he hissed. He's the best friend you'll ever have — until 2:00 a.m. After that he's strictly business.

2:15 a.m. Standing alone. My neuroticism goes into full bloom. ***"Don't hunch like that,"*** I think to myself. "Nobody wants a huncher. Stand up straighter. There, better. Watch out for the "pelvic dump!" If you don't keep your hips level your stomach'll pooch out. See if anybody goes home with you then. Quit looking so alone. Smile and pretend you see someone. Pretend you have lots of friends and they're at the bar getting you a drink. Watch that pelvic dump!"

3:10 a.m. Looks I've gotten from guys I was attracted to: Two. Looks I got from guys I wasn't attracted to: 18.

3:30 a.m. Disaster. The only two guys I was attracted to went home together.

Next Day. Work. 4:45 p.m. Hours squandered thinking about the boyfriend I don't have: Three. Hours tormented about staying in tonight or going out to meet the boyfriend I don't have: Four.

5 p.m. Gary called. Wanted to know what time he should pick me up to go to the bars. I said, "I'm taking a break from the bars. They're just not working for me."

"Fine," he said. "I'll pick you up at 10 o'clock."

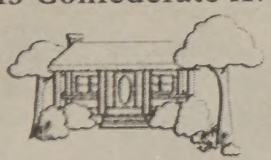
"Are you deaf?" I asked. "I said I'm taking a break. I can't possibly be ready before 11."

Michael Alvear lives in Atlanta with his lesbian Labrador and girlie-boy Vizsla, and can be reached at **michaelalvear@attbi.com**.

SERENDIPITY REALTY, LLC
www.serendipityrealty.net

André Golubic 678.TURNKEY
Shane Little 404.861.2701
Rebecca Shannon 404.219.2474

713 Confederate Ave.



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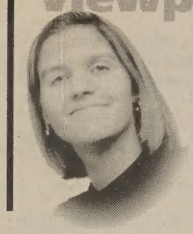


What can you say about a place with a trans barkeep, lesbian chef, a gay waiter and straights among the clientele? The **beer is top notch**.

No rainbows in a post-gay world

I HAVE SEEN THE POST-GAY WORLD, and it serves really good beer.

My girlfriend and I were having dinner at a restaurant and bar nestled on the edge of the gay-friendly Chicago neighborhood of Andersonville, when we looked around.

The barkeep was a transwoman. There was a gay waiter and a lesbian chef. A group of gay men were flirting on the high barstools. But something was missing.

There was no rainbow sticker on the door. Or neon rainbow in the window. Or anything external to denote this establishment as a gay bar.

And do you know why? It isn't one.

T's calls itself a place "for everyone" and surprisingly, it really is. The same night we were there, two straight couples were playing pool. In fact, T's manages to be a place where it is as comfortable to bring your parents for dinner or straight friends for a drink as it is to flirt with a same-sex stranger or kiss your girlfriend.

Perhaps even more amazingly, it equally welcomes men and women — unlike a majority of the nightspots in gay ghettos, where gay men are often made uncomfortable in lesbian bars and vice versa.

T'S IS ABLE TO BE MOST THINGS TO most people because it intentionally reaches out to all of its constituencies. It hosts regular women's nights, sponsors gay sports teams and employs gay staff. But it also employs straight staff, and has events that appeal to straight folks, like Super Bowl Sunday parties and the recent run of a quirky play devoted to drinking and writing.

In fact, T's is a pretty good representation of what it might be like to live in an (ideal) post-gay world: a world where gay couples aren't stared at, commented on or (heaven forbid) battered as they walk down the street holding hands or kissing.

In a post-gay world, being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered is interesting in the same way that learning that someone is left-handed or a twin is interesting. It is a fact that affects their worldview but says nothing about his or her character, interests or politics.

By post gay, I mean a world where a lesbian marriage or a gay man in the military or a transgendered president is barely even remarked upon by the media.

I first imagined a post-gay world when I learned that a friend who worked part time as an advisor to gay students at a Boston-area women's college no longer had a job.

"The students decided there was no need for an advisor anymore," my friend's life-partner told me. "They fit in fine and they just want to be students, not lesbian students or bi students."

The lesbians at this particular college can do this because their needs are being met. They face little discrimination or prejudice from the student body or administration. In fact, there is constant outreach to from faculty, staff and administrators.

For these lucky students, there's nothing to fight for, so they don't have to fight. They can just be.

THERE ARE POCKETS AROUND THE world like this. Not only my own neighborhood of Andersonville but the small college towns of Northampon, Mass., and Madison, Wis., parts of New York and Paris and most of San Francisco, Amsterdam and Stockholm.

The entire world, unfortunately, will likely never be post-gay. There will always be small redneck towns and large, unfriendly cities where gay people are not welcome.

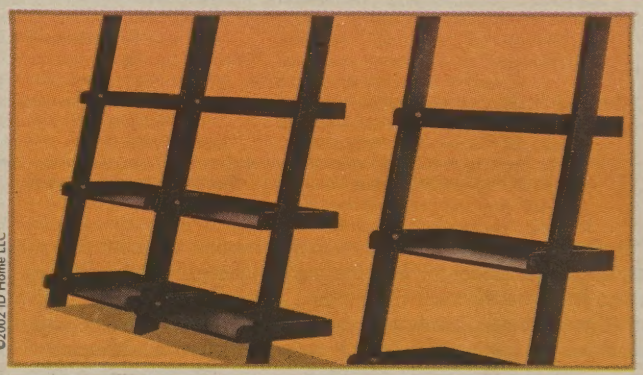
That's because post-gay places need a combination of things to make them possible: anti-discrimination laws, a strong gay and lesbian community, and a marketplace and political establishment that's responsive and pro-active to our needs.

Being post-gay is more than cold tolerance; it is an understanding that we offer unique contributions that benefit everyone and should be sought out.

A post-gay world, which can only happen after the end of discrimination, isn't a place where we are all the same. It is a place where the needs of each of us are met equally. A place where we all feel safe and welcome. So in a post-gay bar, a lesbian might come to play pool after softball and a gay man might be flirting with his new lover while sitting next to a straight man doing the same thing.

A post-gay world is one where we are all just folks, sitting around talking and having a really good beer.

Jennifer Vanasco is Chicago-based syndicated columnist and can be reached at vanasco@chicagofreepress.com.



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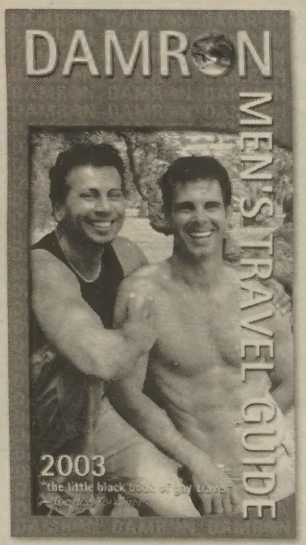

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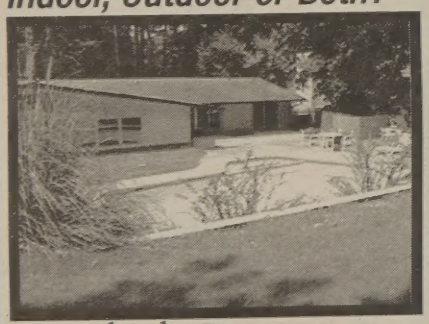
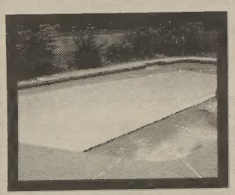
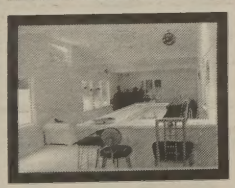
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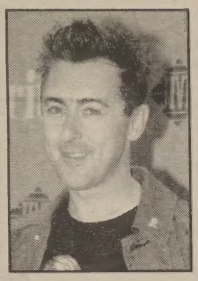
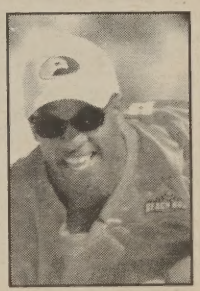


"Someone older than myself, and rounder."

*Actor **Alan Cumming**, who is gay, about the casting for his on-air partner in "Mr. & Mr. Nash," a television series in development for ABC by Steve Martin that pairs up two gay detectives in a twist on the old "Hart to Hart" formula (New York Times, Nov. 20)*

"I'm not a prude, but to me this is pornographic. ... Why is our educational system teaching sexually suggestive materials that confuse and molest our children's minds and morals?"

Lani Eugenio, mother of a 12-year-old student in Honolulu, testifying about a sex education pamphlet, "Discovering Your Sexuality," that among other things summarizes research about sexual orientation and the questions asked about the subject, including "To whom are you sexually attracted?" "With whom have you had sex?" and "Do you love only members of the same sex, only members of the other sex, or both sexes equally?" (Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Nov. 22)



"I said I played 14 years in the NFL, and I don't think I ever met a homosexual player. [One of the psychologists I interviewed] was from California, and he told me, without naming names, that he had treated one of my former teammates who was gay."

*Hall of Famer **Mike Haynes**, now vice president of the NFL's Player & Employee Development, on his interviews with psychologists to help advise the league on a number of issues, including the welfare of gay players (San Francisco Chronicle, Nov. 24)*

"Because sex preference is such a private issue, prior to making it a permanent printed record — such as in the yearbook — parental permission was required."

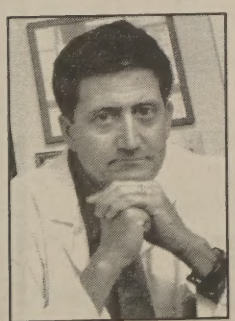
Sue Rossi, a spokeswoman for Crete-Monee High School in a Chicago suburb, where students selected a lesbian couple as "cutest couple" for their senior awards (Chicago Tribune, Nov. 20)

"I doubt if this couple were a boy and a girl they'd see a need to run it by the parents."

Patricia Logue, of the Chicago office of Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, reacting to the decision by Crete-Monee school officials (Chicago Tribune, Nov. 20)

"We don't have a policy that says no cross-dressing. What our policy does say is that a judgment call as to the appropriateness of attire or accessories are at management's discretion. ... We are a family park, and we try to maintain that family atmosphere. I guess there was something that made this [complainant] feel a little uncomfortable or a little unsure."

Sandra Daniels, spokesperson for Six Flags Over Texas, explaining the theme park's decision to briefly detain a transgendered woman after another park visitor complained about the presence of a "man dressed as a woman" (Dallas Voice, Nov. 15)



"Many fights worth taking on are losing fights. In part because of what you're doing, you're engaging people in a dialogue about the issue. San Francisco prides itself on being risqué. If sometimes we set out a position and we don't succeed, so what?"

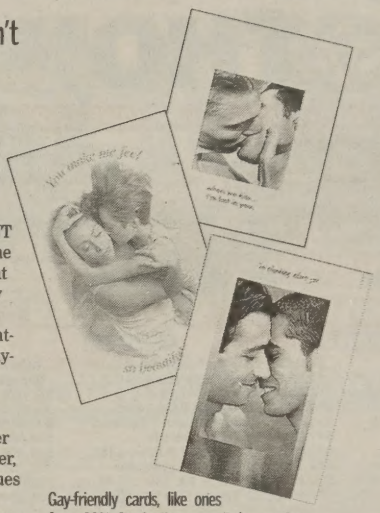
***Jeffrey Klausner**, director of STD control and prevention for the city of San Francisco, about his sometimes unconventional methods, including challenges to AOL to post safe-sex warnings and chatrooms and to Pfizer, maker of Viagra, to include a warning about STDs on the drug's packaging (San Francisco Chronicle, Nov. 25)*

action! alert

Does Hallmark care enough?

'Sending the very best' won't include gays for greeting card leader

By MIKE FLEMING



Gay-friendly cards, like ones from 10% Productions, won't be coming from Hallmark any time soon, a company official said.

WHILE THEY'VE HEARD THE RECENT rumblings that they will soon offer a line of gay-specific cards, greeting card giant Hallmark says the speculation is simply not true.

"I can't find anyone who is even slightly aware that Hallmark has plans for anything like that," said Rachel Bolton, a spokesperson for the Kansas City, Mo.-based company.

The company's position — not to offer gay-friendly cards while catering to other, specific groups of consumers — continues its cool approach to gays.

"Our best guess is that special interest groups might make claims to further their agenda. There is no plan for lines of cards to come out targeting the gay community," Bolton said.

But that doesn't mean gay customers aren't welcome, she said.

"In Hallmark's very broad collection of cards, there are always cards appropriate for a wide variety of relationships in various stages of that relationship," Bolton said. "The words, the images the design and the tone can reflect whatever a person is needing to reflect."

Hallmark has considered a gay card line, but the company doesn't see a need to "single out or exclude anyone," she said.

"Our research seems to show that, when talking about love and commitment, it's about the feelings, and not sexual identity," Bolton said. "Hallmark accepts everyone but doesn't see a need to label anyone and don't tell people how to identify themselves."

But Hallmark's approach misses out on a lucrative market, according to Gred Nimer, president of 10% Productions, a gay greeting card company that has flourished since 1993 with "millions a year in sales."

"Our community is unique and deserves a line of products that honor that difference," Nimer said in a statement. "Our cards show a side of our lives which has never before been shown in as open and free a manner. Each of our cards and gifts is aimed at our uniqueness."

BUT HALLMARK DOES "SINGLE OUT" other groups for special card lines. And the company does reach out to gays in other ways.

The company has experimented with a card line targeted to older consumers, which didn't work out, and one for veterans, which has been "very successful" in the post-Sept. 11 atmosphere in the U.S., Bolton said.

Hallmark also offers cards for African-Americans and other minority groups.

"We have introduced some specialized lines based on an extremely high demand," Bolton said.

And in February, ads began popping up on gay-targeted Web sites for Hallmark's new line of cards featuring the words of poet Maya Angelou.

"We felt [gays] are the right target for this line and it's important for us to reach the right consumers," Julie O'Dell, another Hallmark spokesperson, told the Commercial Closet Web site. "Our expectations were exceeded."

THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME HALLMARK has drawn gay attention. In December 2001, a Hallmark store in Providence, R.I., refused to sell two male stuffed bears with magnets installed to make them "kiss."

The bears were designed with polarized magnets to make opposite-sex bears kiss and same-sex bears repel, but a factory mix-up made two male bears kiss.

In March 2001, the company rejected a proposal from a gay employee group to offer domestic partner benefits to employees and said the cost of the benefits package was too high.

But the company's mission is one without discrimination, Bolton said.

"The goal of this company is to help people communicate and enhance relationships, and we believe we do that very well, whatever your preference or the nature of your relationship," she said.

ACTION! INFO

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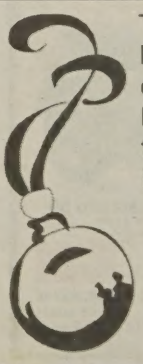

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Includes Nikkor 28-100 zoom lens

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The big picture without the borders.
- Stunning, 6-color 2880 x 720 dpi results
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- "Unvisible" 4-picoliter variable-sized ink droplets
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Holiday Prices!

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NIKKOR LENSES ARE SHARP AND FAST

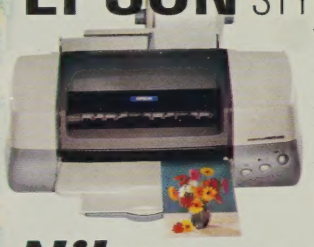
PRODUCT	REBATE
AF Nikkor Fixed Focal Length Lenses	
14mm f/ 2.8D	$100
20mm f/ 2.8D	$ 50
24mm f/ 2.8D	$ 25
28mm f/ 2.8D	$ 35
35mm f/ 2D	$ 40
85mm f/ 1.8D	$ 40
180mm f/ 2.8D ED-IF	$ 70
300mm f/ 4D ED-IF AF-S	$100
300mm f/ 2.8D ED-IF II AF-S	$400
Micro-Nikkor Lenses	
60mm f/ 2.8D AF Micro	$ 40
85mm f/ 2.8PC Micro	$150
105mm f/ 2.8D AF Micro	$ 70

PRODUCT	REBATE
Nikkor Telephoto Zoom Lenses	
17-35mm f/ 2.8D ED-IF AF-S Zoom	$100
18-35mm f/ 3.5-4.5D ED-IF Zoom	$ 50
24-85mm f/ 3.5-4.5G ED-IF AF-S Zoom	$ 35
24-120mm f/ 3.5-5.6D Zoom	$ 50
28-70mm f/ 2.8D ED-IF AF-S Zoom	$100
28-80mm f/ 3.3-5.6G Zoom	$ 10
28-100mm f/ 3.5-5.6G Zoom	$ 10
28-105mm f/ 3.5-4.5D Zoom	$ 40
28-200mm f/ 3.5-5.6D IF Zoom	$ 75
35-70mm f/ 2.8D Zoom	$ 70
70-300mm f/ 4-5.6D ED Zoom	$ 35
80-400mm f/ 4.5-5.6D ED VR Zoom	$100

Nikon REBATES

EPSON INK JET PRINTER STYLUS® PHOTO 890

PRINT Image Matching



Takes great shots right to the edge.
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- Convenient, BorderFree photo printing - prints 4" x 6", 5" x 7", letter and spectacular panoramas
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- Fast photo print speeds - beautiful 8" x 10" prints in under 2 minutes
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Holiday Prices!

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4.0 Megapixel resolution
- 3x optical/4x digital zoom
- 256-element matrix metering
- Fully automatic for great photos without hassle
- Accepts all optional Coolpix lenses
- 12 versatile scene modes

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Nikon COOLPIX® 2500

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NEW!

Mail-In Rebate

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22x optical/ 440x digital zoom
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Free Software Included

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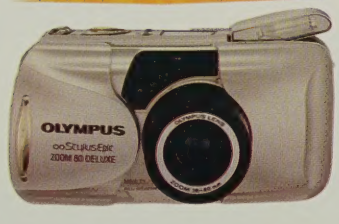

Superior 38-80mm zoom lens
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*Choose from any of these digital cameras:

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Nikon D1X	Canon 1D	Fuji S2
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Holiday Price!

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35mm SLR with high speed 7-point wide-area AF

- WhisperDrive™ transport brings near silent shooting
- High-speed film advance
- 11 shooting modes and 13 custom modes

KIT **$539.95**

Kit Includes: EOS Elan 7 body, EF 28-90II f/4-5.6 USM lens, wide strap EW-100BK and two 3V lithium batteries CR123A

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Canon ELPH Z3

Ultra-slim 2.3x zoom APS camera

- Elegant, energy-efficient design
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Canon PowerShot G3

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4.0 Megapixel resolution

- 4x optical/3.6x digital zoom lens (14x combined zoom)
- New imaging processor DIGIC improves image quality
- 12 EOS-based Shooting modes plus new wide-area FlexiZone AF/AE, spot metering, zoom playback up to 10x
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The perfect printer for your digital camera.

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- 4" x 6" borderless photos in approx. 60 seconds

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6.3 Megapixel resolution

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Print beautiful color photographs without a computer

- Direct printing from select PowerShot digital cameras
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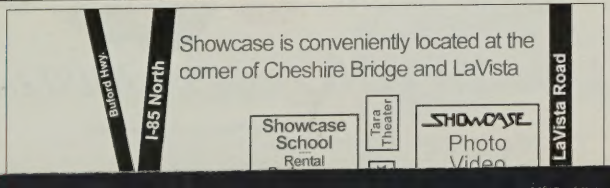

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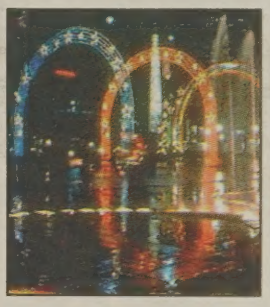
LUDLAM LUNACY: Campy gay thespian Charles Ludlam lives on in new biography. **Page 37**

POCKET POSEY: Indie film queen **Parker Posey** hits town to promote her next flick, dish about gay fans. **Page 35**

Holiday happenings



From lights to concerts and spiritual events, gay Atlantans have seasonal choices galore

By MIKE FLEMING

THE PASSING OF THANKSGIVING means the official holiday deluge has begun.

A chill is in the air, solicitations to spend money are pervasive and gay men and lesbians are as caught up as anyone in the whirlwind that is the holiday spirit.

The sights and sounds span the gamut from traditional fare to tacky takeoffs on classic entertainment.

The Festival of Trees kicks off the season this weekend with 150,000 square feet of sparkling lights, seasonal scenery and live entertainment following the annual Christmas parade through Atlanta's downtown.

Events all month long are designed to conjure the festive spirit. Check out lights and decorations in Centennial Olympic Park (with ice skating), Stone Mountain Park, Lake Lanier, Callaway Gardens, the Smith Plantation, the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center and the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.

In addition to no fewer than 15

Please see **HOLIDAYS**, **Page 49**

The sights and sounds of the holidays decorate the already-breathtaking environs at (clockwise from top) Centennial Olympic Park, Lake Lanier, Callanwolde Mansion and Collinfield Hall's Christmas House. (Callanwolde photos by Michelle Sienkiewicz)

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- Easy-to-read EL illuminated LCD data panel

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4.0 Megapixel resolution

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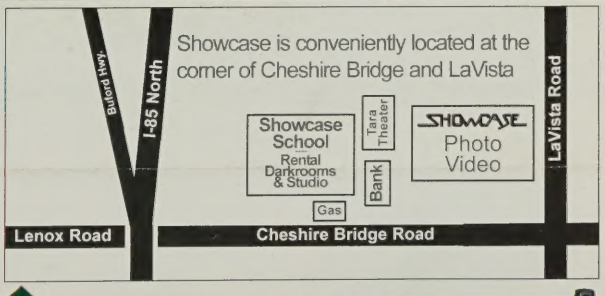

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EF 70-200mm f/4.0L USM Lens	$40
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EF 200mm f/1.8L USM Lens	$70
EF 400mm f/5.6L USM Lens	$70
18x50 IS All Weather Binoculars*	$100
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12x36 IS Binoculars*	$50
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Includes Canon U.S.A. 1-yr. limited warranty. *Includes Canon U.S.A. 3-yr. limited warranty. Valid for residents of the fifty U.S. States and Puerto Rico only. Purchase any of the products listed above between Oct. 1, 2002 and Feb. 28, 2003. Claims must be received by March 31, 2003.

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$279 Complete with Minolta Zoom Lens

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- Use easy-to-find AA-size batteries
- Uses CompactFlash™ removable storage
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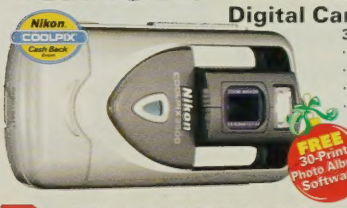
Digital Camera



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- Compact and lightweight, weighs only 6 oz.
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- Auto-connect USB for easy connectivity & downloading

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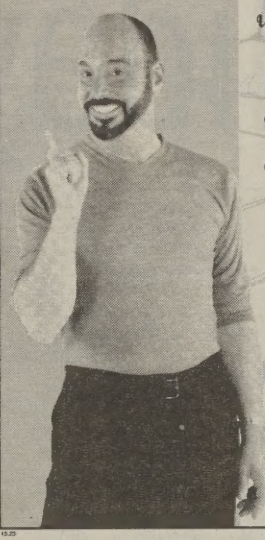

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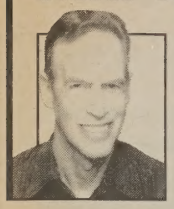

Touring for her latest film, gay favorite **Parker Posey** stops in Atlanta for Thanksgiving to talk about her gay fans.

A ring around for Posey

IF YOU HAVE ANY EXPECTATIONS OF actress Parker Posey, she meets them all at some point during a half-hour interview on behalf of her new film "Personal Velocity."

The young actress is serious and funny, open and closed, intelligent and ditzy, happy and sad, a dedicated professional and a giddy flake. The high-profile performer with 47 credits since 1991 and a laudable range manages a low-profile celebrity that flies under the tabloid radar.

Even for an actress working mainly in independent films, a disproportionate number of Posey's projects have been either queer (Gregg Araki's "The Doom Generation," Todd Verow's "Frisk" and Thom Fitzgerald's upcoming "The Event") or queer-ish (Christopher Guest's "Waiting for Guffman," "Best in Show" and next year's "A Mighty Wind.")

Posey also graces all three "Tales of the City" miniseries, Julian Schnabel's "Basquiat" and two episodes of "Will & Grace."

"Them queers love me," Posey jokes.

But she has never actually played a queer character.

"I had a gay part," she says. "I was supposed to play a lesbian, but the money fell through."

THE TOPIC OF FINANCING FOR INDEpendent films brings Posey down. She says that's why she doesn't start her own production company.

"I wouldn't be able to get my movies financed," she says.

Soon she's up again, extolling her position with one foot in the mainstream and one in the indie world.

"I've had a really interesting life and an interesting career," she says. "It's hard to create if you don't have a struggle."

Posey was born in Baltimore, but her family moved to Laurel, Miss., where she was raised. Posey went to high school at Winston-Salem's North Carolina School of the Arts, and eventually Time Magazine crowned her "Queen of the Indies."

Asked if she and Lili Taylor duked it out on "Celebrity Death Match" for that title, she goes off.

"I'm really sick of it," she rants. "People keep asking me, and I don't know what to say. 'How do you feel about being an indie queen?' All I can do is make a joke of it."

POSEY ENJOYS THE FREEDOM TO go back and forth between indies and studio films.

"Honey, I'm trying to work, just like you are," she says.

When she made "Scream 3," Posey noticed a difference from independent shoots.

In her new film 'Personal Velocity,' **Parker Posey** once again proves her wide acting range as an editor who re-evaluates her life.

"The actors were on cell phones between takes," she says. "The energy dissipates."

The energy didn't have time to dissipate when Posey shot "Personal Velocity," her latest film, which consists of three separate stories about women. Posey shot her segment in six days with no advance rehearsals.

"I don't like rehearsals," she says. "It takes the reality out of the situation. When you're acting, you try not to fake it ... just be in the moment."

In "Velocity," Posey's character, Greta, thinks she's content in a dull marriage until her editing career explodes and she moves from cookbooks to the novels of a hot young author.

Asked if she's still with Tom Beller, a fixture on the New York literary scene, Posey snaps, "That's just too personal!"

She softens, but still doesn't answer, when it's explained the point is she was in a good position to research her character. She agrees.

"I read the script and said 'I've seen that girl. I've known that girl,'" she says.

"Velocity" was written and directed by Rebecca Miller, playwright Arthur Miller's daughter. Although the movie is by and about women, Posey notes that it isn't typically feminine.

"It isn't precious, it doesn't smell like bad perfume," she says. "It's feminine in the best way."

Perhaps by Posey's design, this tour is ending in Atlanta in time for her to spend Thanksgiving with her twin brother, an attorney, and his daughter who live here.

MORE INFO
'Personal Velocity'
Opens Dec. 13
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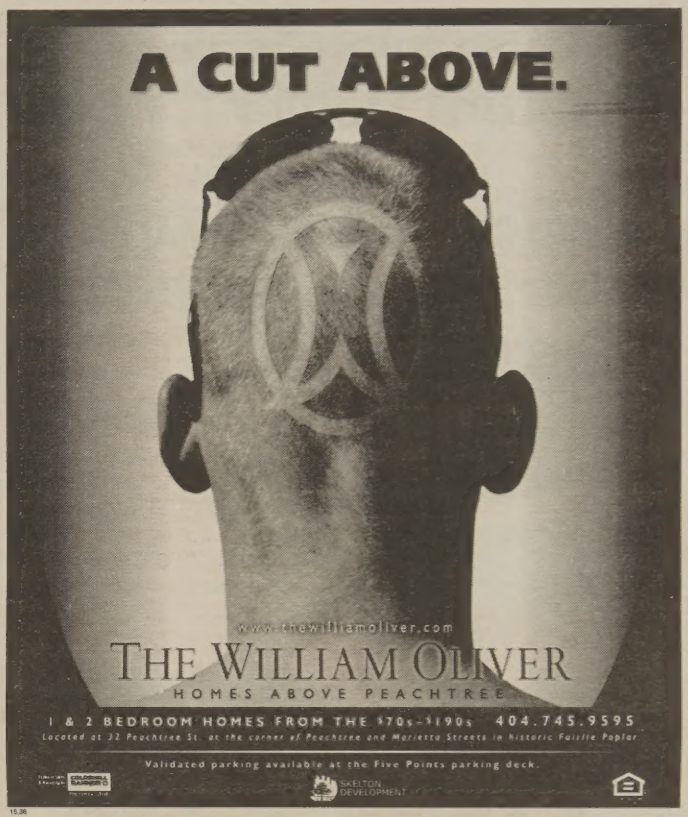
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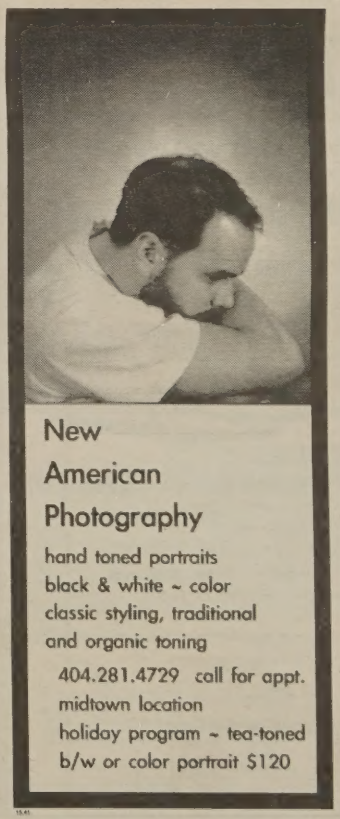

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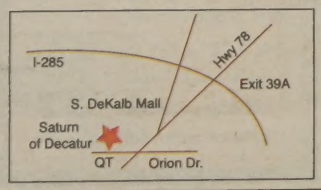

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Biography investigates, celebrates how **Charles Ludlam** revolutionized theater with drag and camp for the mainstream.

Theater of the absurd

As 'Camille,' gay playwright and actor **Charles Ludlam** languishes in the arms of Armand (**Bill Vehr**) in a production of Ludlam's classic adaptation.

ONE OF THE GREATEST TRAGEDIES of modern gay life was the untimely death of playwright-actor-director Charles Ludlam in 1987 from AIDS at the age of 44. Despite his death being front-page news in the New York Times, Ludlam is still an obscure figure in today's queer culture.

"Ridiculous! The Theatrical Life and Times of Charles Ludlam," by esteemed theater critic David Kaufman, is a masterpiece of biography that may finally correct this historic imbalance and complete the work that Ludlam never got to do in his lifetime. Ludlam, a theatrical genius of the first magnitude, may finally enter the mainstream and receive the recognition he never achieved in life.

"Ridiculous!" recalls John Lahr's masterful biography of queer British playwright Joe Orton, "Prick Up Your Ears." Kaufman may redefine Ludlam's work for a mass audience the way Lahr did for Orton.

Indisputably, Ludlam's greatest talent was as a stage actor, and his greatest performances — often in drag — went unrecorded on film. Kaufman's task is therefore a doubly daunting one and one that did not face Orton's biographer, Lahr. Orton only wrote a handful of plays. Ludlam wrote over two dozen, most of them unknown to the casual reader.

Lahr also had the "advantage" of Orton's life being a great, appalling love story. He was killed by a hammer blow to the head as he slept by his longtime lover, David Halliwell, who then killed himself. In the pre-Stonewall era, even the rebellious Orton didn't dare acknowledge his lover's existence. Although Ludlam's lover, Everett Quinton, is still alive and keeping Ludlam's memory alive through recreations of his greatest performances, the two did not meet until late in Ludlam's life.

LUDLAM, WAS, IN ADDITION TO everything else, an actor-manager, in the great historical tradition of Sir Henry Irving. Where he assumed the status of a modern Shakespeare or Moliere was that he not only had to write and perform his comic works, but had to keep his theater company alive and functioning in order to mount them. His plays include "Camille," "Bluebeard," "The Mystery of Irma Vep," "Galas," "Stage Blood," "Der Ring Gott Farblonjet" and "Caprice."

Arguably the great love of his life before Quinton was his Ridiculous Theatrical Company itself and its long-time members. Kaufman succeeds admirably in bringing this unique, mostly gay, often transvestite theater company to life in all its teeming, fascinating, poverty-stricken complexity.

Ridiculous Theater company members, especially lesbian legend Lola Pashalinski and Black-Eyed Susan, the token straight woman, are still alive to tell their tales. "Ridiculous!" is as much a biography of these two extraordinary actresses as it is of Ludlam and, not incidentally, Quinton.

Compounding the tragedy, the other core queer members — Bill Vehr, John Brockmeyer, Georg Osterman and Ethyl Eichelberger — have all died of AIDS as well. The loss of these great queer artists combined with Ludlam's is incalculable.

KAUFMAN GOES INTO CRITICAL analysis of the plays themselves — masterpieces of satire, vaudeville and above all, high camp — exhaustively. Times critic Mel Gussow is quoted so often, he becomes a major character and force in the story.

The denseness of this book should not put off anyone who is not already familiar with Ludlam's extensive oeuvre. It is in the chronicling of the complex relationships that Kaufman scores his most potent descriptions.

"Ridiculous!" stands as a testimonial to Ludlam's pioneering work. As a record of queer life in the '60s, '70s, and '80s, it is an invaluable historical record of an era of queer theater.

MORE INFO

'Ridiculous: The Theatrical Life and Times of Charles Ludlam'
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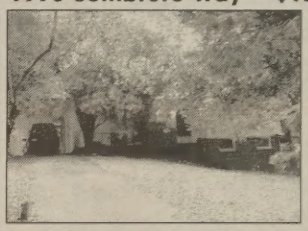

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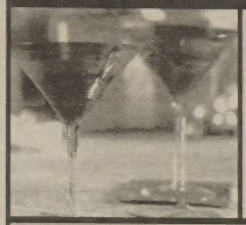

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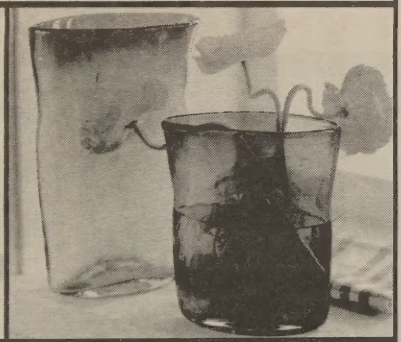

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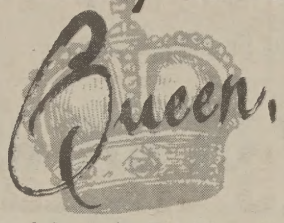

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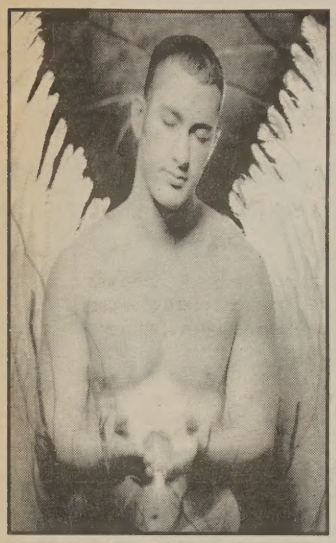

Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse hosts an opening reception for the **'Eye Candy'** series of photographs by local photographer Harold Daniels on **Thursday, Dec. 12** from 7-9 p.m. The display runs through January. 991 Piedmont Ave. 404-607-0082 or www.outwritebooks.com

SATURDAY DEC. 7

The AIDS Awareness Committee in Macon is **Puttin' On the Ritz**, its **11th Annual Masquerade Ball** at 7 p.m. in the Macon City Auditorium. Proceeds benefit Central City AIDS Network and the AIDS Housing Program. 415 First St. Macon, GA 31201. 478-750-8080 or 800-374-2437

SUNDAY DEC. 8

A Holiday Artist's Market at Christ Covenant MCC's Davis Hall offers unique and affordable hand-crafted items by local artists like Anita Edwards, Kathy Lum and Candy Casarella from 1-4 p.m. 109 Hibernia Ave., Decatur. 404-633-8546 or www.christcovenantmcc.org

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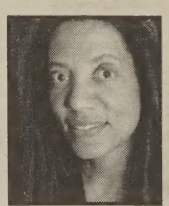

Charis Circle, InnerLight Publishing and ZAMI present lesbian poet **Nikky Finney** at 7 p.m. at First Existentialist Congregation. Local lesbian musician Doria Roberts also performs. 470 Candler Park Dr. 404-524-0304 or www.charisbooksandmore.com

FRIDAY DEC. 13

Theatre OUTlanta, with the help of author Jod Godfrey, turns Charles Dickens' Christmas classic gay with **'A Queer Carol'** through Jan. 5 at 7 Stages back stage theatre. Wed.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. 1105 Euclid Ave. 404-371-0212 or www.mindspring.com/~outlanta

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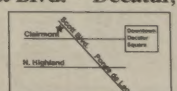

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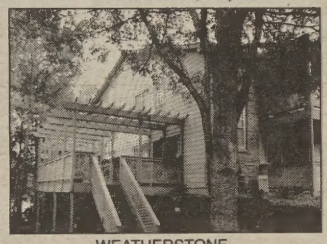

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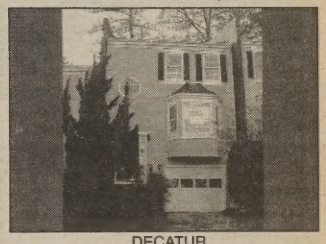

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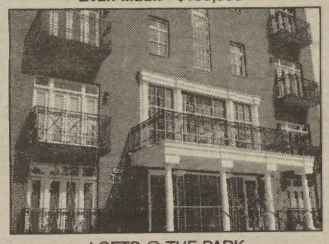

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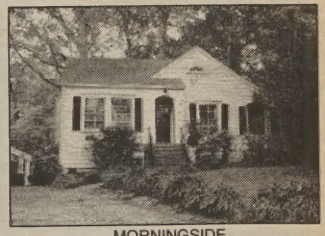

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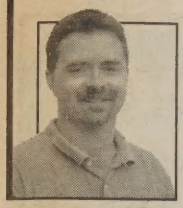


Unique brand of theater combines **spiritually riveting feats** with beats and rhythms from body instruments.

Cirque meets Stomp

WHAT WOULD YOU GET IF YOU crossed the new age mysticism of Cirque de Soleil with one of those "let's grab a broom and make noise" shows? The result might be something like Lelavision's new "Rhythm of the Landscape." Now having its world premiere at 7 Stages, the show could almost be called Cirque de "Stomp."

The Seattle-based Lelavision is the brainchild of musical inventor Ela Lamblin and choreographer Leah Mann. The two began working together in Atlanta in the early '90s, incorporating music and movement with themes like nature and spirit, before moving to the West Coast and creating their own unique kind of theater.

The two call it kinesis, a kind of performance using instruments to create physical music. The theme of "Landscape" is about the cyclical nature of the universe. But rather than thinking too heavily about the symbolism and deep meaning, it's best to just sit back and enjoy the performers and rich visuals.

"LANDSCAPE" OPENS WITH THREE performers (Lamblin, Mann and Sheli Potmesil) working their way from behind a steel bridge, their faces covered with a drum-like circular object. Miniature versions of said object are also on their knees. They move in unison across the stage, eventually making music with their bodies as images of birds fly on the horizon.

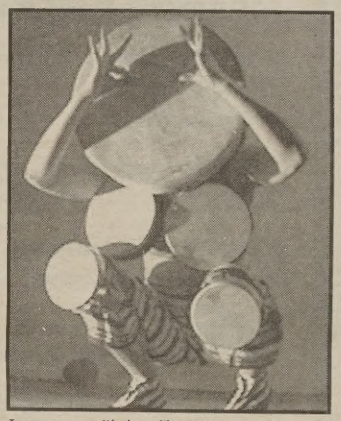
Later, a spinning volcano-like prop is placed on stage. Lamblin and Mann circle it and create a poetic, soothing music, then climb atop it like a merry-go-round, before falling inside it and working their way out.

Depending on your mood, this show can bore you silly or utterly beguile you. More often than not, "Rhythm of the Landscape" is a true one-of-a-kind. The children in the audience fidgeted at times but sat in rapt silence at some of the latter stunts.

Certainly, the production is like nothing you've probably ever seen or heard. Like "Cirque," some of the material runs the risk of being pretentious, but it ultimately proves to be a haunting and rich sensory experience.

"Landscape" ends with a literal bang. While objects hang from the ceiling in front of the trio, bungee cords also fall from the sky. At first, the cords are out of reach of the performers, until Lamblin manages to grab the ropes, connect the two women, and then himself.

Jumping into the air — in perfect choreography by Mann — the three manage to strike the chimes and create music as they rise and fall. Lamblin even hurls himself mid-air from one end of the stage to the other. The feat is both funny and daring. Don't try this at home.



In one scene with drum-like costumes, performers in 'Rhythm of the Landscape' create music with their bodies for an unusual theatrical experience. (Photo by Ela Lamblin)

AND SPEAKING OF CIRQUE DE SOLEIL, the real deal is headed back to Atlanta. The new "Varekai" — called an "explosive fusion of drama and acrobatics" — will debut in March at the Cobb Galleria.

Will gays travel to Marietta for the latest Cirque? I can't imagine they wouldn't. Those Cirque fanatics are a serious breed. I know groupies who would span the globe in a heartbeat to be part of the action, so a little bad county politics shouldn't deter the large gay following.

Elsewhere this week, "All's Well that Ends Well" runs through Sunday at the New American Shakespeare Tavern. As one of the Bard's lesser-produced works, "All's Well" stars Tavern regulars Maurice Ralston and Peter Hauenstein, as well as Joanna Daniel and Melanie Colvert.

MORE INFO

'Rhythm of the Landscape'
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BECAUSE I AM ABOUT TO WAX enthusiastic about Woodfire Grill, I will tell you right away that I used to work for its chef-owner Michael Tuohy, at his first restaurant, Chef's Café.

So it's impossible for me to dine at Woodfire without being recognized and treated as a friend. But I know Tuohy's disciplined approach to hospitality. And I can confidently say that in his establishment, a genuine welcome is offered equally to all.

Chef's Café is considered Atlanta's first California-contemporary restaurant, although its true sensibility was Mediterranean, rendered through an essentially French cooking technique.

Woodfire's menu, too, is in debt to Spain, France, Italy and neighboring cultures. But I'd call the cooking — which is earthy and direct, and focused on ingredients and flavor — utterly American in spirit.

Chef's had an odd location, a space meant for a coffee shop in a budget motel. But inside, it was a haven of cool civility. Woodfire has a more casual feel, but looks odd, too. It's the former Marra's, a bungalow that was expanded in a 1980s style that now seems clunky and dated.

Tuohy has added a generous rear deck, and done up the interior in a tawny palette with handcrafted accents. But unlike other recently opened restaurants in the vicinity, the place won't be winning any design awards.

It's the cooking that will leave the competition panting.

THE USER-FRIENDLY CARD STARTS with "tastes," like a bowl of marinated olives, a selection of olive oils and a revelatory couple of tender-as-ravioli little squid stuffed with smoky chorizo sausage in a putanesca-like tomato sauce. These are all $4 to $7.

"Small plates," $6 to $14, include soups and salads, many incorporating artisanal cheeses like the sensational ones from Sweet Grass Dairy down in Thomasville.

One knockout choice is fritto misto (a mixed fry) of lightly battered fresh smelts, calamari, thin onion rings and lemon slices and — this was a lucky day — explosively fresh and flavorful Georgia white shrimp. This ample plate (only $9) comes accompanied by a zesty garlic mayonnaise.

There are pizzas, cooked — you guessed it — in the wood-fired oven, which pumps a pervasive nebula of mouth-watering aromas into the room. I swooned over a pizza of duck confit, black figs, melted leeks and intense Point Reyes bleu cheese ($15).

The short list of entrees ($18 to $27) always includes a signature fish roasted on a cedar plank. The one I had was a thick slab of wild Columbia River salmon, marinated first in a garlicky, capery Mediterranean green sauce, then subtly permeated by the sharpness of the cedar. With a tomato-arugula salad, this plate was a simple stunner.

Risotto with porcini, chanterelle and mouosseron mushrooms, made heady with a sharp, salty parmigiano-reggiano ($19), is the essence of earthiness — especially when I sprang another $15 to have it paved with slices of fresh white truffle.

The only dish I sampled that left me underwhelmed was an entrée of roasted daurade (sea bream). The fish is fine, but lacks the punch of other dishes at Woodfire. Perhaps it simply paled next to that risotto, but the roasted fingerling potatoes that come with it were definitely undercooked.

In addition to sweets, a cheese course is offered as dessert (three for $9, five for $14). This sounds totally simple, but it's not quite: Canary Islands majorero (an aged goat cheese), for instance, comes rubbed with paprika. A Sonoma County Vella dry jack is doused with olive oil and sprinkled with cocoa powder.

Surprising, maybe. But all about flavor.

It's possible to spend a lot of money at Woodfire, but also possible to put together a satisfying, top-quality meal cheaply. There are many interesting wines in the $25 to $45 range, too.

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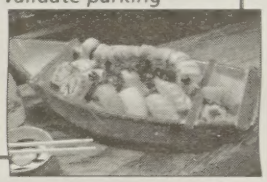

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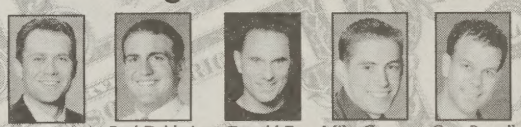

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HOLIDAYS, continued from **Page 33**

renditions of "Nutcracker" — including the quintessential Atlanta Ballet presentation plus that troupe's alternative show "Nutty Nutcracker" — the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra hosts several holiday productions, including a gospel concert and the classic Handel's Messiah.

For those who'd rather rock, Georgia-grown lesbian band the Indigo Girls hosts several other gay favorites at a holiday concert Dec. 18 at the Tabernacle.

NOT TO BE OUTDONE, GAY GROUPS in metro Atlanta get festive for the holidays. Winter concerts from the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus and the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus are on tap, as are parties from nearly every gay business group and social set.

And for those who tout a "reason for the season," gay and gay-friendly

Decorations at Callanwolde Mansion are a don't-miss stop on any holiday tour. (Photo by Michelle Sienkiewicz)

spiritual groups are also laying out special events.

Congregation Bet Haverim celebrates the end of Hanukah Friday, Dec. 6, with a party after their regular Sabbat service, and a women's group at Charis Books & More plans a Solstice commemoration. The Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative holds a holiday remembrance of lost loved ones next week.

Christian-based gay congregations gather on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for worship. But before that, interested celebrants can find arts fairs, concerts, tree trimmings, live nativities and potluck dinners.

The following schedule offers a taste of the opportunities that abound to celebrate the holidays. Starred events are gay or of particular gay interest. If your favorite group isn't listed, contact them directly for event schedules.

(Next week: Holiday theater from the very gay to more traditional fare.)

Holiday event schedule

LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS

Atlanta Christmas Parade
Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m. to Noon
Starts at Centennial Olympic Park,
East on Marietta Street,
North on Peachtree Street
to W. Peachtree Street

Festival of Trees
Dec. 7, 8 and 9, Noon to 6 p.m.
Georgia World Congress Center
285 International Blvd.
404-325-6635
Tickets $10

Christmas House
Daily through Dec. 8
Collinfield Hall
5585 Mount Vernon
Parkway, NW
404-733-4620

Orchid Lights, Orchid Nights
Dec. 11 and 18, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Atlanta Botanical Gardens
1345 Piedmont Ave., NE
Tickets $15

Gingerbread Christmas
Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Smith Plantation
935 Alpharetta St.
Roswell, GA 30075
770-641-3978
$5, reservations required

'Southern Christmas'
Through Dec. 15, 6 p.m.
to 10 p.m.
Stone Mountain Park
Highway 78 East, Exit 8
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
770-498-5690
Tickets $10

Christmas at Callanwolde
Through Dec. 15
Callanwolde Fine Arts Center
980 Briarcliff Road, NE
404-872-5338
www.callanwolde.org
Tickets $12

Holiday in Lights & Ice skating rink
Through Jan. 5, weeknights and weekend days
Centennial Olympic Park
Techwood Drive at
International Blvd.
Lights free, skating $7

'Magical Nights of Lights'
Through December, 5 p.m.
to 10 p.m.
Lake Lanier Islands
770-932-7200
www.LakeLanierIslands.com
$25 car, $35 van, $100 bus

'Fantasy in Lights'
Through Dec. 28
Callaway Gardens
800-225-5292
www.CallawayGardens.com
Tickets $12 person

CONCERTS

***Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus**
Dec. 7, 8 p.m.
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
1790 Lavista Road
770-438-5823

Gospel Christmas
All-Atlanta Choir and Atlanta Symphony
Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
Symphony Hall
1280 Peachtree St.
404-733-4200
Tickets $12-$36

Atlanta Symphony holiday concert
Dec. 8, 15
Symphony Hall
Tickets $12-36

***Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus**
Dec. 12-14, 8 p.m.
Cathedral of St. Philip
2744 Peachtree Road, NW
404- 320-1030

***Indigo Girls holiday concert**
w/ special guests
Dec. 18, 8 p.m.
The Tabernacle
152 Luckie St., NW
404-659-9022
Tickets $36.50

Handel's Messiah
Dec. 19, 8 p.m.
Atlanta Symphony
Symphony Hall
Tickets $12-36

ARTS

***Outside the Lines Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair**
Dec. 6, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
First Existentialist Congregation
470 Candler Park Drive
404-378-5570
http://www.mindspring.com/~e-cong/

Bing Crosby, Johnny Mathis...the **Indigo Girls**? Though it's not known whether the lesbian duo will perform holiday classics like 'White Christmas,' they do offer a holiday concert, Dec. 18 at the Tabernacle.

***Holiday Artists Market**
Dec. 8, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Christ Covenant MCC
109 Hibernia Ave.
www.christcovenantmcc.org

Inventing Santa: Art & Advertising
Through Jan. 5
High Museum
1283 Peachtree St., NE
404-733-4400

PARTIES

***Black & White Men Together Christmas party and potluck**
Dec. 7, 7:30 pm
404.892.BWMT
http://www.geocities.com/BWM Tatlanta

***Greater Atlanta Business Coalition Holiday Party & Silent Auction**
Dec. 11, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Decatur First Bank
1120 Commerce Drive
Decatur, GA 30030
404-377-4258
Members, $15, Guests, $20

***Swa-Ra Holiday Happy Hour**
Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
Blake's on the Park
227 10th St., NE
404-892-5786

***Christmas dinner**
Dec. 25, Noon to 4 p.m.
Charis Books & More
1189 Euclid, NE
404-524-0304
www.chariscircle.org

RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL

***Shabat Service and Hanukah Party**
Dec. 6, 6:30
Congregation Bet Haverim
Atlanta Friends Meeting House
701 W. Howard Ave.
404-607-0054

***Potluck dinner and tree trimming**
Dec. 8, after 11 a.m.
church service
First MCC of Atlanta
1379 Tullie Road
404-325-4143

***Holiday remembrance ritual**
Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative
1530 DeKalb Ave,
Suite A
404-688-2524
www.alci.org

***'Postcards from Home' Holiday concert and silent auction**
Dec. 15, 7 p.m.
First MCC of Atlanta

***GAIA women's Solstice celebration**
Dec. 15, 6 p.m.
Charis Books & More
404-524-0304
www.chariscircle.org

***All Saints MCC**
2352 Bolton Road, NW
404-605-7140

***Christ Covenant MCC**
109 Hibernia Ave.
404-373-2933

***First Existentialist Congregation**
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***Unitarian Universalist of Atlanta**
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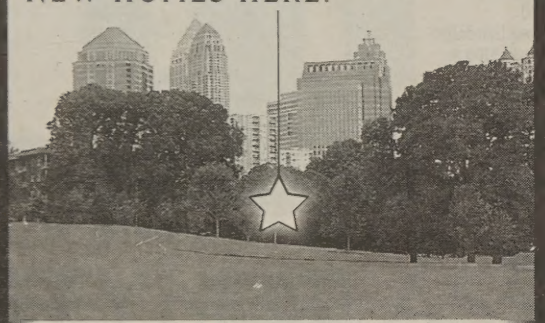
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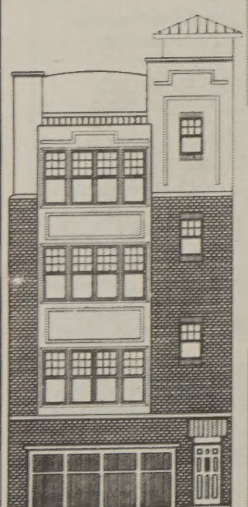
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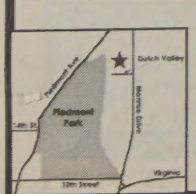
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What to pitch and what to keep becomes storage nightmare that begs **'place for everything and everything in its place.'**

The hidden menace

Saving precious memories is fine, but tossing out the junk so you can find the good stuff will keep storage situations managable.

MOVING HAS BEEN A REVELATION. Not only am I finding things that have been missing for three years, I'm rediscovering clothes that I forgot and getting a chance to throw out a lot of others.

I've also discovered something new about combining two households into one. The worst is not the challenge of whose sofa goes where; it's not the inevitable disagreement about wall coverings or window treatments; it's not even the challenge of combining all the pots, pans, dishes and multiple can-openers.

Those are a Sunday picnic compared to the true, hidden menace.

What I do mean is the attic, the backs and top shelves of closets, the space under the stairs, the little corners behind and under furniture where things that we never use and can't bring ourselves to throw away pile up without our quite realizing it.

Going through one household full of those places and sorting out and throwing away most of that "indispensable" trash is an ordeal in itself. But multiply it by two, and then multiply by two the amount of things that end up being kept and moved, and there's a real challenge.

Organization can bring peace of mind to a cluttered closet.

THE TEDIUM OF SORTING IS BAD enough, but try condensing and combining two sets of Christmas decorations, two collections of sweaters, two monumental piles of photo albums, old LP's and afghans, and it becomes a job that would make an alcoholic out of a tea-toting Baptist.

Somewhere in my impressionable years, I think I read too many stories about adventures in cluttered attics and was way too impressed with Walt Disney sitting in front of that bookcase containing every National Geographic ever published.

My spare room has so far disgorged every issue of National Geographic since about 1969, two useless modern armchairs, three decades of Gourmet Magazine, six blankets, two filing cabinets, a dozen old pictures with frames and two cartons of my own cookbooks. And it still looks like an attic with a real adventure lurking in its corners.

In the spirit of "Do as I say, not as I do," let me say that I've learned a few things from this ordeal — and no, it is not "never save anything at all."

But my advice can be encapsulated in an old cliché: a place for everything and everything in its place.

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO PREVENT a secret mess like mine is to pretend that you don't have the storage space. Whether you do or not, approach saving things in that light and consider whether you need all those old gift boxes, old sweaters and outdated magazines.

If you can pretend that there's no place to put it, then those out-of-sight places that you do have will get used for things that you really value and need to keep, things that you won't have to dig through a pile of trash to find.

If items in storage will actually be used occasionally, the very act of finding them will help you keep those secret places organized and neat.

The next step, of course, is to actually keeping them orderly and neat. Find a system that works for you and stick to it. If gift boxes go on the top shelf of the hall linen closet, make it your rule to store nothing but gift boxes in that spot.

And conversely, when that shelf is full, don't start saving gift boxes anywhere else. Sort through them and pitch the ones you think you won't need again or the ones you've had for a year without using. Don't start a second cache where the old blankets are stored.

Of course, some things will be hard to get rid of, but try to be realistic. If you have family heirlooms stored away, things that you never look at — or worse, that you don't even want to look at — then consider whether you need to keep them at all. You don't have to pitch them; maybe someone else in the family would not only want them, but might actually enjoy using them instead of hiding them in the attic.

A friend of mine, reacting perhaps to memories of her pack-rat mother and husband, has a stern rule to which she never makes an exception: If she hasn't used something for six months, it goes.

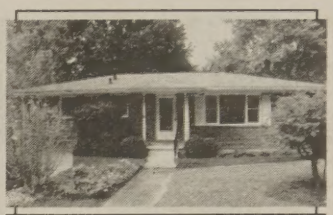
Her rule may seem a little extreme, but think about it: I've got things lying around that haven't seen the light of day in three years. What's worse, I didn't even use them in the 14 years that they lay on the top shelves of the house I lived in before.

Do I need to keep moving cartons of things I never even look at? No. From now on, there will be a place for everything.

And sometimes, that place will be the garbage.

Hiding boxes that you haven't opened for years and miscellaneous junk just makes for nightmares and more work later.

REAL ESTATE DIRECTORY, **Page 56** RENTAL CLASSIFIEDS, **Page 61** HOUSES FOR SALE, **Page 62**



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TELL THEM YOU FOUND THEM IN THE DIRECTORY

ms. behavior MERYL COHN

Sarcastic response to a little image polish should **first examine internal motivations** and hidden insecurities.

Get over yourself

Dear Ms. Behavior:

I was delighted to read your advice to Eliza, the diesel dyke who was seeking training in being more socially presentable as a female.

Butches want to be femmes now? Great news! What with Republicans and right-wingers in control of the government, it's time queers relearn conformity and remember how to adopt the behavior and thinking of mainstream heterosexuals.

Just as before pride, "gay culture" should remain innocuous and homo identity should mimic that of straight people to every possible extent. And there's no stopping this trend once it catches on again.

For girl-challenged lesbians, I hope Ms. Behavior will offer pointers on how to blow a straight man, insert a diaphragm, throw like a girl and serve a nice casserole. Anything to enable unacceptably boyish dykes to act, look and ultimately feel, feminine.

Similarly, faggots would benefit from help in mimicking traditional man-type behaviors like betting on hockey, grabbing the asses of female co-workers, operating a forklift and fucking interns with Macanudo cigars.

So long to gender-bending individualism for members of sexual minority groups. The gay revolution has come a long way!

— My Fair Lezzie

Dear My Fair Lezzie:

There is no need to get your Joe Boxers in a twist, Missy. Not all dykes are so insecure about their butchness that they can't peel off the battered old leather jackets and spike bracelets and boots to slip into something new — and perhaps even dainty — for a change of pace. But clearly, this notion leaves you aghast.

Perhaps it is because you think gay pride is about being a poster child for counterculture, rather than being yourself.

Queers, who have long-appreciated the joys of dressing up and dressing down, are hardly in danger of extinguishing themselves by trying on a new costume. Do you think that a lesbian who wears a silky skirt will suddenly lose her ability to change a tire or toss a football or shout "Yo!" when an SUV full of her friends drives by?

But if the idea of Ms. Behavior channeling Henrietta Higgins for a bit of girl talk about changing clothes or style leaves you trembling in your Timberlands, you are hereby excused from the dressing room.

And, by the way, speaking for proud gay male forklift operators everywhere, as well as cooking-savvy lesbians who can bake a killer casserole — all of whom will probably inundate Ms. Behavior with barrels of complaining e-mail — your tired old stereotyping of homosexuals is also excused.

P.S. If you'd really like pointers on blow jobs or inserting a diaphragm, Ms. Behavior will have to charge extra.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

Can a lesbian and a bisexual woman be friends after having a passionate relationship?

I've decided to be friends with this bisexual woman until she can figure out what she wants. She has children, and I feel that she is stuck in the fantasy of her children having a father figure even if her own needs are not fully being met.

So to play it safe with my own heart, being friends with her and just loving her at a distance is all I can do for now. Yes, I am hoping she will rediscover her true feelings for me. But until then, I've decided on no intimacy. What do you think? Am I wasting away as my heart is frozen in time?

— Wasting Away

Dear Wasting Away:

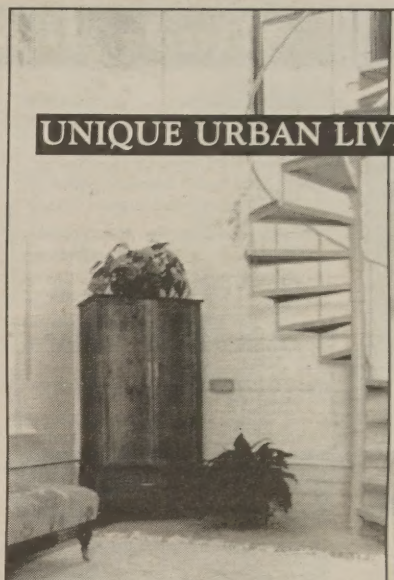
Your signature suggests that you've answered your own question: It doesn't sound like you have enough distance from your bisexual "friend" to protect your heart.

Get out of your friend's head. Don't worry about what fantasy she's stuck in, and don't wait for her to figure out what she wants. That might take a long time, particularly if you're hanging out in the background, hoping she'll rediscover her feelings for you.

Your physical presence won't make her more likely to realize that she wants you. And just resisting the temptation to have sex with one another is probably not enough of a change to create the distance that you both need now.

Besides, if your heart is "frozen in time," it won't necessarily be available for the big thaw if a real and wonderful lesbian shows up, ready for a relationship with you.

Meryl Cohn can be reached at msbehavior@aol.com.



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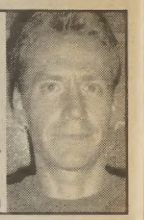

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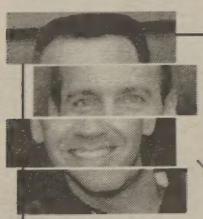
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medical report

More men report having gay sex, report shows

NEW YORK — A recent nationwide survey shows that a larger proportion of men say they are having sex with other men than in the 1980s, although whether that trend stems from an increase in same-sex activity or an increased willingness to report it remains unclear, according to Reuters Health. "Male-to-male sex is still a sensitive, stigmatized behavior, and ... is likely to be underreported to some unknown degree. Even though these recent estimates are somewhat higher than other surveys, they probably are still low," said Dr. John E. Anderson, a researcher at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in Atlanta and the co-author of the report. Surveys collected since 1996 showed between 3.1 percent and 3.7 percent of men reported having sex with another man during the past year. This is a sizeable jump from 1988 estimates of between 1.7 percent and 2 percent, the report noted. The results from the current study are published in the November issue of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Kramer lends name to fight against company over HIV drug

LOS ANGELES — Larry Kramer, the award-winning playwright and ACT UP founder, lent his voice in support of a lawsuit seeking to invalidate the patent for AZT, the first AIDS drug. London-based GlaxoSmithKline holds the patent for the drug, which was initially created in 1964 in the U.S. as a possible cancer drug, and first shown to be effective against HIV by NIH researchers in the mid 1980s. "It is evil to possess a drug that you don't own and which can save lives and then deny it to the very dying people who need it," Kramer said. The lawsuit, brought by U.S-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation and supported by a coalition of more than 500 groups, seeks to invalidate GlaxoSmithKline's U.S. patent on AZT and other subsequent HIV drugs that include AZT as a component. Kramer, who is HIV-positive and 67, had a liver transplant last December, a unique procedure for people with the disease.

AIDS activist **Larry Kramer** is supporting efforts to strip GlaxoSmithKline of the patent it holds on the successful AIDS drug AZT. (Photo by AP)

Powell urges ambassadors on leadership for AIDS fight

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell invited the entire diplomatic corps to the State Department Dec. 3 to deliver a message he hopes they will relay to their governments: Political leadership is an essential component in the struggle against HIV/AIDS, according to the Associated Press. It is believed to be the first time all ambassadors from governments accredited in Washington have gathered to hear a message on a public health issue, says Jack Chow, who serves as the U.S. ambassador on the AIDS issue. "We know that national political leaders who are willing to speak out and commit their governments to a course of constructive action in combination with public health investment can make a difference," Chow said. There are 42 million cases of AIDS worldwide.

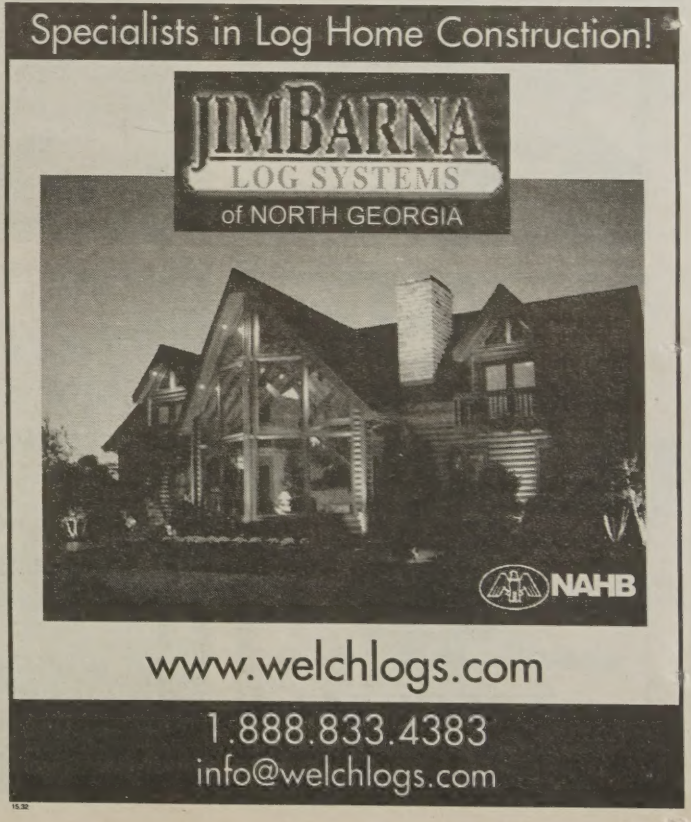
Women now account for half of HIV cases, UN says

LONDON — For the first time in the 20-year history of the AIDS epidemic, as many women as men are infected with HIV, a United Nations report says. The report, made public last week, paints a dismal picture of a disease invading regions of the globe where it had for many years tricked experts into believing some populations might be less susceptible, or even immune, to infection, according to the Associated Press. "It's once more a sad story," said Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of the U.N. AIDS agency. The virus is spreading most rapidly in Eastern Europe, where nearly every country is experiencing a major outbreak. It has also marched swiftly across Central Asia and into China. Piot said the shift toward women will ultimately exacerbate the spread of HIV, because they can spread it not only through sex, but also through nursing and childbirth.

Spanish-language brochure on hepatitis released by gay health group

SAN FRANCISCO — The Gay & Lesbian Medical Association created a Spanish-language hepatitis brochure targeting men who have sex with men to boost awareness of the disease. A recent GLMA survey shows that of 30 cities the organization visited, San Antonio scored the lowest in hepatitis awareness in gay and bisexual men, a population at the greatest risk. "We've been successful with our national campaign," said GLMA President Kenneth A. Haller, Jr. "But one piece was missing. Outreach in the non-English speaking areas of the U.S. is essential if we are to successfully reduce the transmission of hepatitis A and B among [men who have sex with men]. Now we have the ability to communicate to a community that might not otherwise have access to this information." Physicians, medical centers, public health departments and others may request both the English and Spanish versions of the brochure by logging on to the GLMA Web site at www.glma.org. The brochure was funded by drug company GlaxoSmithKline.

From staff and wire reports



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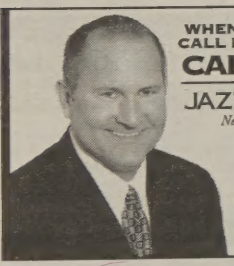

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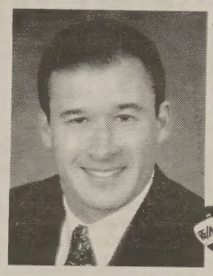

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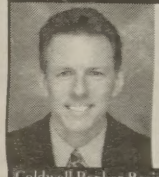

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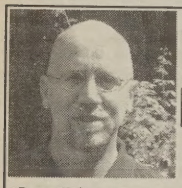

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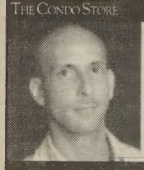

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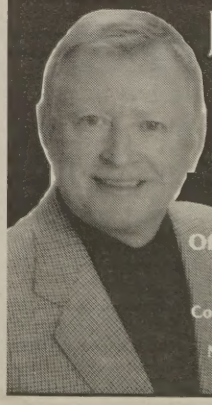

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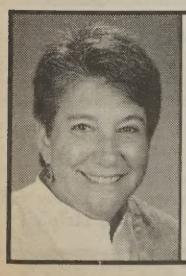

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Briar Cliff Rd., 11/2, you: red Atlanta cap, gray Passat, me: tan cap, black truck. Thought you were wonderful, would love to see you again, even if just as friends. Decatur ☎7041

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I met Labor day, we did not exchange phone numbers, we exchanged glances, please respond if this is you. Athens ☎6939

COLOSSEUM
David, my name is Jamie. We met at Augusta Colosseum - you were on business. You called my sister but didn't leave message. Please call so I can get in touch. Thanks. ☎6661

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GBM, late 30's Androgynous-looking bottom, HIV+ and very-healthy, loves house-work, cooking, cleaning, ironing, and a barber. Seeks average guy, top, who needs love. Race unimportant. Atlanta ☎6810

PICKY ... AND PROUD OF IT
Shy, atypically typical, not lookin' anywhere near 40, 6'1", 157lbs, amusing, versatile/bottom, HIV-GWM who likes books, art, conversation, most of the human species, etc. Seeking someone to love. Conyers ☎7068

MASCULINE TOP - MIDTOWN
GWM, 49, 5'8", 150lbs, hairy, goatee, HIV+, great shape, enjoys movies, dining, travel, quiet times, sports. Seeking non-smoking GWM, under 45, in shape, for dating, romance, LTR. Loves kissing, cuddling. Atlanta ☎7043

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

SEARCHING TO FIND
GBM, 40, 5'11", 215lbs, brown eyes, HIV, healthy, loves cooking, movies, walking, etc. Seeking average guy, top, for some fun, maybe more. South side. ☎7045

SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST
Light-hearted SM, 42, 6'2", 180lbs, brown hair, boy-next-door features, likes movies, reading, music, plays. Seeking male with similar interests. Atlanta ☎5326

SEEKING PARTNER
GWM, 48, 5'11", 200lbs, balding brown/blue, salt-n-pepper beard/moustache, HIV+, financially/emotionally stable, seeks secure, stable, goal-oriented guy for romance, friendship, and possibly more. Roswell ☎7053

SEEKING THE REAL THING
Down-to-earth SWPM, sincere, good-looking, HIV+, N/S, N/D, seeks same for dating, friendship, possible LTR. Me: 5'10", 175lbs, brown/blue, H/W proportionate. Enjoys movies, walks dinners out, water sports, quiet times. Peachtree City ☎6629

AM I THE ONE?
GWM, 22, 5'10", black/brown, good-looking, nice, outgoing, seeks GM with similar qualities, for fun, dining out, shopping, possible LTR. Gracewood ☎6387

CARING SWM...
tired of being alone. SWM, 6'3", 235lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, N/D, N/S, N/Drugs, Christian daddy bear, seeks Mr. Right, 25-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎7038

SEEKING BLACK AND SEXY
SWM, 5'9", 170lbs, enjoys camping, singing, dancing, quiet evenings at home. Seeking BM, with similar interests, for friendship, or personal, private LTR. Athens ☎5877

EASYGOING GUY IN...
South Carolina. GWM, 40, 5'11", 155lbs, slender build, brow/blue-green, clean-cut, HIV+, enjoys travel, outdoors, photography, being at home, music, sports, more. Seeking quiet GW/HM, HIV+, for dating first, possible LTR. Goose Creek ☎7024

ATYPICAL LIFESTYLE
Loving, handsome GWM, 50, enjoys homelife, cooking, movies, dining out, pets. Seeking SHM, with similar interests, for LTR. Atlanta ☎6866

HANDSOME SWM SEEKS SAME
SWM, 36, 5'10", 168lbs, seeks similar SWM, for friendship or more. No disappointment here, looking for the same. Atlanta area. Macon ☎6714

SEEKS MR. RIGHT
SM, 6', 190lbs, brown/blue, average build, retired, big computer buff, interested in music. Looking for a quiet man for friendship, companionship, possibly more. Savannah ☎7023

YOUNG & SEARCHING
Male, 18, 5'8", 140lbs, gray-blue eyes, disease-free, college student, very outgoing, music lover, seeks an outgoing, nice man, for friendship, dating, and possibly more. Decatur ☎7001

PASSIONATE, ARTISTIC GUY
Handsome, romantic, laid-back GWM, 41, 6', 220lbs, HIV+, new to area, looking for friends, dating, relationship. Enjoy travel, outdoors, camping, cultural events, movies, cooking, spontaneous fun. Let's hang out. Athens. Winterville ☎6777

HAPPY IN RED
This male, 6'1", nurse, loves making people happy, sewing, and watching sports. Seeking another homebody for serious relationship. Stone Mountain ☎6997

TOTAL TOP
GWM, 45, 6', 175lbs, blond/blue, muscular, stable, healthy HIV+, seeks same in Atlanta. I'm waiting! ☎6808

LOOKING FOR YOU
GWM, 41, 5'8", 160lbs, dark/dark, HIV+, lean, muscular build, in good health, seeks GWM, 35-50, HIV+, who works out and takes care of himself. Atlanta ☎6976

PLAYFUL AND SERIOUS
Masculine, attractive, well-educated, in-shape, HIV- SWM, 51, 6'1", 175lbs, seeks similar/different friend, 30-50, to pursue a life of both body and mind, home and travel, quiet walks, and passionate talks. Atlanta ☎6927

STILL 48 (30S LOOKING)
Sexy, attractive BM, 5'7", 185lbs, masculine top, well-built, caring, passionate, loving, loves dancing, dining, and the arts. Seeking attractive black, Asian, Latin, white with flavor, masculine bottoms. No smokers/drugs/drama. Atlanta ☎6776

FREAK
Closeted male, 49, 6'1", 235lbs, salt-n-pepper/blue, mustache, loves pool, bowling, and hiking. Seeking a male, top, full of humor and honesty. Lithia Springs ☎6897

MASCULINE TOP 4 BOTTOM
WM, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/brown, mustache, 39, loves life, camping, nature. Seeking similar for soul mate. Try me. Fayetteville ☎6595

CARING MALE SEEKS SAME
College student, 19, 5'9", 155lbs, cropped blond/blue, of Irish descent, sociology major, no children or pets. Seeking laid-back, level-headed guy for casual dating, possibly more. Cartersville ☎6868

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You can place a FREE Personal ad, 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling our automated ad taking service. Or if you'd like help in crafting your personal, you can talk to our customer service reps Mon. through Fri. from 8:30am to 11pm and Sun. from 10 am to 6 pm. Then you'll record a FREE voice greeting in which you can talk a little bit about yourself and the person you'd like to meet. You can pick up your messages at your leisure and call anyone who interests you. The best part, it's all FREE.

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Call costs $2.29 per minute. Must be 18+
With your credit card, call
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WANTED: REAL NICE GUY
GWM, slave to work, seeks really nice guy, 30-45, to unwind with. Into sports-watching, movies, dinner, etc. I'm 46, 5'9", 170lbs, D/D-free, N/S. You too! NW Metro a plus! Kennesaw ☎6843

MODERATION
GWM, 39 yrs, 6'1", great shape, curly hair, blue, HIV+, healthy, non tobacco, not into late night scene. Seeking secure guy for dinners, dating, romance, possible relationship. Atlanta ☎5512

LOOKING FOR LTR
Me: BiBM, 21, 5'9", toned build, light-skinned, bottom, masculine. You: cute, attractive, good body build, top, masculine. I enjoy anything fun and love to try new things. Decatur ☎7012

Women Seeking Women

LONELY MOM
GBF, 30, 5'7", great laugh, likes reading, going to movies, going out and enjoying life. Seeking fun-loving, adventurous GBF for friendship first. Atlanta ☎6950

SNUGGLE WITH ME...
in the mountains. SWF, 43, 5'4", 139lbs, blondish-brown/blue, hopeful romantic, spontaneous and light-hearted, but also deep, thoughtful, and kind, seeks SWF who wants personal wholeness and growth. Jasper ☎7144

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Female, 27, 5'3", 190lbs, long brown/hazel, loves watching football and occasional tennis, enjoys writing poems and short stories. Seeking friend, possibly more. Bloomingdale ☎7098

NO...
false advertising here! Fun, outgoing, honest, intelligent, feminine GWPF, 32, seeks GWF for meaningful friendship first, possible LTR. Love the fall, walks, great conversation, and laughing. Smokers ok. Tucker ☎6840

WORTH A TRY
SWF, 43, graying/blue, soft butch, seeks same. Are you 35-50, stable, drug-free, N/S, can you make me laugh, make me think? I'm sincere are you? Its worth a try. Jonesboro ☎6873

MATURE SOPHISTICATE
BF, 55, mature sophisticate, seeks same in professional BF to share dining, movies, travel, cultural events and comfortable home life, some discretion required. Stone Mountain ☎7104

WAITING TO EXHALE
BF, 5'8", long brown/brown, of large frame, telecommunications customer service representative, loves college football, basketball, and travel. Seeking woman for committed relationship. Atlanta ☎6870

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
GWF, 27, 130lbs, brown/brown, cute, seeks very cute, athletic, feminine female to enjoy the outdoors and life. Thomasville ☎6937

SOMEONE JUST FOR ME
BPF seeks beautiful soft butch, 35+, N/Drugs, N/S, mentally/spiritually/financially centered. Character is important. Race is not. Stone Mountain ☎6638

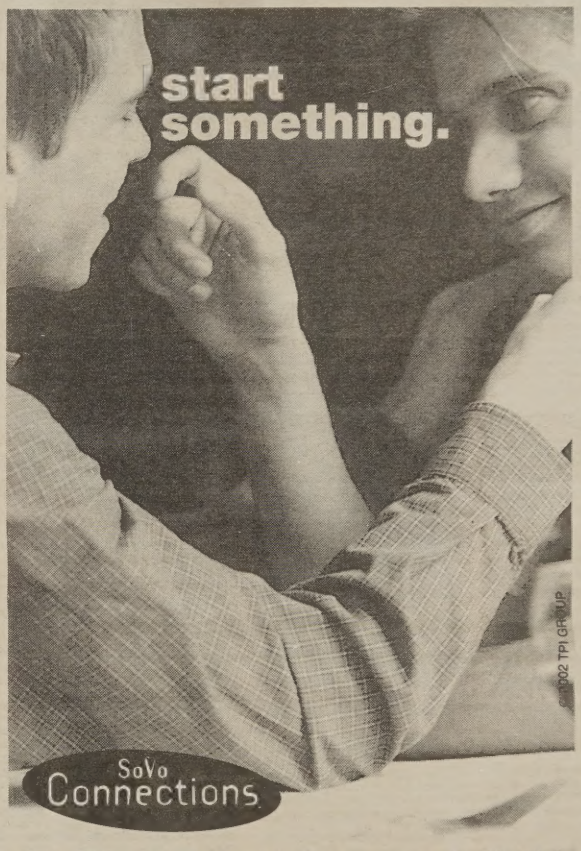
NO GAMES, JUST SINCERITY
Soft, butch GWF, 35, seeks LTR with a kindred spirit, a special woman, 30+, who likes scary movies, sushi. Must believe that romance never ends, and cuddling springs eternal. Decator Atlanta ☎5901

OLDER WISER LESBIANS
Can we start a support/social group for the above in North Fulton County? Is anyone out there? If interested and would like to get involved, please call. Alpharetta ☎7072

SPECIAL LADY SOUGHT
Female, 44, 5'7", 175lbs, with MS, looking for a special lady to spend time. Not looking for a lot of drama! Covington ☎6773

SEEKING SOMEONE TO LOVE
BBW GF, 32, HIV+, romantic, laid-back, seeks same in GF, for mutual admiration and love. Serious inquiries only. Atlanta ☎6865

2 GOOD 2 B LOOKING 4 LOVE
42-year-old BF, independent, healthy, and open-minded, forgot how to look for a date so call before x-mas. Atlanta ☎7044



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SENSE OF HUMOR
SF, 38, 5'2", mother, lives life one day at a time, likes being at home, television, playing cards, conversation. Seeking a female with the same interests. ☎7094

BEAUTY SEEKING BEAUTY
SF, 5'3", 150lbs, black/brown, vegetarian, enjoys spending time with my two sons, watching sports, reading, being active. Seeking a woman for casual dating that may grow into something strong. Smyrna ☎6952

DON'T GIVE UP
Very attractive, successful, intelligent, warm and caring, young-looking, feminine 40 year-old SWPF seeks similar for exclusive relationship. N/S, N/Drugs. Canton/Roswell. ☎5107

FALL FOR ME THIS FALL!
GWF, 42, 5'2", 135lbs, feminine, pretty, and unique, enjoys hanging out, clubbing, exercise, working out, tanning at the beach. Seeking GWF, responsible, mature, sweet, and honest, for companionship, possibly more. Tucker ☎7042

SOON 2B DOCTOR
GWF, 43, attractive, funny, seeks femme for friendship/possibly more. Not into bar scene, smoking, drinking, drugs. Great sense of humor, loves cuddling. Down-to-earth, outgoing. Love pets, be allergic to cats. Suwanee ☎6966

I'M AVAILABLE
SF, 5'2", very cute soft stud, loves traveling, movies, plays, theater, having a good time. Looking for a woman who is adventurous for friendship first. Atlanta ☎6954

BROWN SUGAR
41, black female, smoker, College Park, very romantic, soft butch. Where are you ladies? Race unimportant. ☎6719

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT..
GBF, in search of a mate, someone honest, sincere and available to date, with a charming spirit, integrity and personality. No drama or issues and secure in her sexuality. Decatur ☎7013

FLORIDA WOMAN SEEKS LOVE
SWPF, 50s, enjoys beaches, mountains, outdoors, candlelight dinners, quiet evenings at home. Seeks same, must be feminine and attractive. Clearwater ☎6953

BRIGHT EYES
Honest GF, late-30s, very social, enjoys movies, dining out, family, travel and more. Seeking sincere, sweet, kind, feminine GF, for friendship, possible LTR. Smithville ☎6938

AFRICAN/AMERICAN QUEEN
Feminine GBF, 48, seeks aggressive, 100% lesbian, who is sincere, for dating first. Let's explore our horizons. No Bi's or Femmes please. Smyrna ☎6900

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
Very attractive, feminine, emotionally, spiritually/financially stable, fit GWPF, 30s, 125lbs, 5'4", honest, kind, seeks SWF for friendship, more. Enjoys golf, gym, dogs, movies, dinner, travel. Northwest Atlanta. D/D-free a must! Dallas ☎7069

WANTING SOMEONE REAL
Female, 23, 5'1", 110lbs, layered auburn hair, in nursing school, loves all things sports and all things artistic. Seeking a woman with similar tastes. Forest Park ☎6910

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
GBF, 50, seeks attractive GBF, 40-50, N/Drugs, with a good sense of humor, intelligent, for friendship and dating. Greensboro ☎7071

Just Friends

FRIENDLY FOLK SEEK SAME
GM couple, 50s, is seeking other gays and/or couples in NW GA area for friendship and social activities. Plainville ☎6965

MULTI-LINGUAL TUTELAGE
GWM, 52, good looks, body, health, characters. Bright, personable. Seeking similar, GWF's with whom to practice French, good working relationship necessary. Serious inquires only. No men. Decatur ☎7107

Bisexuals

BEAR MATE WANTED
GWM, 55, 5'10", 230lbs, hairy bear bottom, seeks bigger bear top for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Woodstock ☎6597

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Guidelines: Southern Voice personals are for adults 18 or over seeking long-term, monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses. First meetings should always occur in a public place. Abbreviations are permitted only to indicate gender preference, race and religion. We suggest your ad contain a self-description, age range, lifestyle and avocations. Ads and voice messages containing explicit sexual language will not be accepted. This publication reserves the right to revise copy containing objectionable phrases, to reject in its sole discretion any advertisement on account of its text. An advertiser's print ad may be renewed on the date the corresponding voice greeting box expires or thereafter. This publication assumes no responsibility for the content or reply to any Southern Voice ad. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content and all replies to any advertisement or recorded message, and for all claims made against this publication and its agents as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold this publication, its employees and its agents harmless from all costs, expenses (including reasonable attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Southern Voice, the advertiser agrees not to leave his/her phone number, last name, or address in his/her voice greeting. Not all boxes contain voice greetings.

classifieds

Atlanta Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

NEW NUMBER: 1-877-863-1885

Occasions

Southern Voice publishes birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives free of charge in its classifieds section. E-mail your special occasions to occasions@sovo.com. Call 404-876-1819, ext. 19. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write: Southern Voice/Occasions, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306. You must include a telephone number. Occasions are verified by telephone.

birthdays

"TLR — Happy 45th birthday on Friday, Dec. 6. — JDH"

Happy birthday to Black & White Men Together / Atlanta members Marion J. on Dec. 7 and Jim S. on Dec. 8.

Happy birthday to Southern Voice staff writer Jennifer J. Smith on Dec. 12.

Georgia Equality's volunteers, board members and staff wish a happy birthday to executive director Allen Thornell on Dec. 8 and board chair Chris Carroll on Dec. 13.

AIDS & HIV Services & Education

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625 or call Susan at 770-395-2546.

Our Common Welfare will provide Free HIV testing & counseling. Testing using oral fluids & urine tests; daily from 9am-7pm earlier by appt. & Saturday 9am-1pm. Offices are located at 4329 Memorial Dr, Suite H, Decatur, [next to Dekalb Co. jail]. Call for details: 404-296-3090.

NAESM

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES - 2001 MLK Jr. Dr.,

Suite 602, Atlanta, GA. 30310

*Free HIV Counseling & Testing - Test uses NO NEEDLES, is quick, easy & confidential. Testing hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00a.m.-5:30p.m.,(other days & hours by appointment). Call 404-753-3550. No appt. necessary. All are welcomed.

*Speaking In The Black - Discussion Group for Gay Men of Color who are HIV+ or have AIDS. Open forum discusses challenges of living with HIV/AIDS. Peer led, safe & confidential. Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm-8:30pm. For more info: 404-753-3550.

*Volunteer Services - Volunteer with NAESM. For more info: Call 404-753-2900.

FREE HIV TESTING - Confidential HIV testing every Wednesday from 5:30-7pm @ YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. in Decatur. 404-378-6620 for more information, or www.youthpride.org

The Atlanta Harm Reduction Center is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing information, condoms, referrals, and more to the people who are underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time and energy. For more info write to: A.H.R.C. 1020 Dekalb Ave NE suite 17, Atlanta, Ga 30307, or call 404-526-9222. AHRAATLANTA@JUNO.COM

Announcements

St. Michael the Defender

A Parish of the Catholic Apostolic Church in North America. Sunday Mass 10:00am at 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Across from the Civic Center, free parking! Father Patrick W. Batuyong, Pastor.

www.stmichaelatlanta.org

"ALL ARE WELCOME" 404-627-7212.

A COMMON BOND is a social group for gay, former &/or current JW's, offering friendship and an understanding environment. For details about the next gathering of the Atlanta Chapter - 770-493-3188 or e-mail: micek38@yahoo.com

The Atlanta Legal Aid Society's Health Law Unit - offers free legal services to low-income persons living with life-threatening illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, cancer and ALS; with a wide range of legal problems - employment discrimination, public benefits, debt relief, insurance, access to health care, housing, family issues, and simple wills and advance directives. Income guidelines do apply. We DO NOT offer legal services for criminal matters. Please call 404-614-3969 for more information.

WEST GEORGIA GAY & LESBIAN

RESOURCE CENTER- A cyberspace resource center serving the W.Ga. gay & lesbian community. Includes a bulletin board, chat room, personals, and local, regional and national resource links. http://www.truthtree.com/westga

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Real Estate For Rent-House

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MUST SEE!

AVONDALE/DECATUR - 3BR/2BA, 2-Car Garage, Fenced, Pantry, W/D, Extras. $1200/mo. Plus Deposit. 404-294-0280.

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North Buckhead - great for roommates, 1/2-acre wooded lot, 3BR/2BA, hardwoods, all appliances, alarm, garage. $1495/mo. + deposit. Alan 404-285-8407.

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LAST BARGAIN IN BUCKHEAD! - Elegant condo just one block off Peachtree in the very heart of Buckhead. Top floor corner unit w/3 Bedrooms or 2 Bedrooms + den. Spectacular renovation w/ultra-modern Corian kitchen in great room, perfect for entertaining. Recently redecorated bldg. Condo fees include all utilities. Need to raise cash, any offer over $150,000 considered. Call Adam: 770-330-3952 / 404-417-0042.

For Sale By Owner - 3 Bedroom House. Friendly Brookhaven Neighborhood, Updated Kitchen, Dining Room, Hardwoods, New Roof, HVAC. $229K. Call 404-634-4360.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS- Renovated 3BR/2BA + Guest House, (rented for $1100/mo.). Best Value in VaHi. Possible LEASE/PURCHASE. 942 Glen Arden Way. $369,900. Call 404-892-2405.

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Roommate Situation

Prof GWM to Share Huge 2-Bedroom House in Midtown. Large Rooms, Hardwood Floors, Deck, Fireplace, Washer/Dryer, Off-steet Parking. $575/mo. 404-685-9196.

Roommates

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EAST ATLANTA - GM seeks to Share 2BR/2BA Bungalow; W/D, Stainless Steel Kitchen, High Ceilings; Non-smoker, Responsible, Respectful & Clean. $675/mo. Includes Utilities. 678-481-9518.

DECATUR - GWM seeking RESPONSIBLE Roommate for 2BR/1BA Apartment. Ample Storage, Hardwood Floors, Good Location. $350/mo. + 1/2 Utilities. 404-378-4723.

PGM seeking Male or Female to Share Stunning Estate Home. 4BR/4BA, Emory University Area, Furnished or Unfurnished. $495/mo. + 1/2 Utilities. 678-358-7327.

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Midtown/ Buckhead

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Professional Lesbian Looking for Lesbian/Gay Male to Share 3BR/1BA House in Decatur. Animal Lover, Non-smoker, No Drugs, Light Drinker; $400 + 1/2 Utilities. Call 404-288-4595.

EAST POINT - PGF Seeks Roommate for 2BR/1BA Home. $400/mo + 1/2 Utilities & Deposit. No Smoking/Drugs. 678-886-8873.

North Buckhead - GWM seeks roommate, responsible, clean, nonsmoker, fitness-minded, 3BR/2BA home, hot tub, private patio, share bath. $450/mo. Ron 404-788-0572.

GM Seeking Responsible, Non-Smoking Roommate for Spacious (2500SqFt), 3BR/2.5BA House in Tucker. Fireplace & Attached Garage. $650/mo. + 1/2 Utilities. Cell: 404-285-7310.

MIDTOWN AREA - PGWM seeks Roommate! Locate Apartment for Occupancy at End of February. Have Two Cats. Call Kevin 404-422-6466 or 404-728-9127.

GWM Looking for M/F Roommate to Share New Luxury Townhouse. Close to 85/285. Large Furnished Home. W/D, Garage w/Opener, Cable, Utilities & Housekeeper Twice a Month Included. $625/mo. 404-680-4598.

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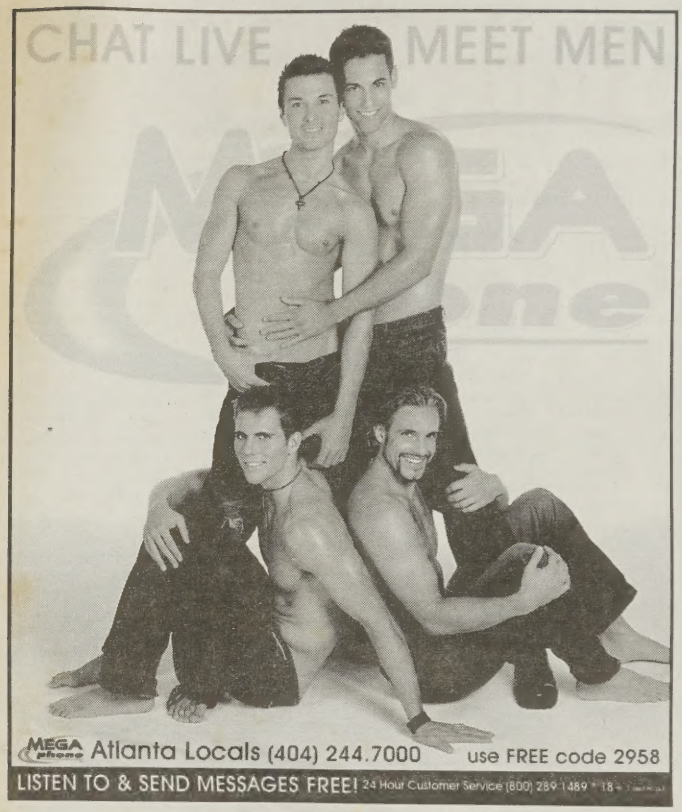
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